

Major Sir Frederick Loftus Francis
Fitzwygram, Bt. M.C. of Leigh Park
(1884-1920)



Painting by Ian Banfield

“The Last of the Line”

(Includes a History of Leigh Park, 1904-1944)

Vol. 2

Steve Jones

£6

Borough of Havant History Booklet No. 73



Printed by the Havant and South Downs College Print Service
South Downs Campus, College Road, WATERLOOVILLE PO7 8AA
print@hsrc.ac.uk Tel: 023 9387 9999

Captain Sir Frederick Loftus Francis Fitzwygram, Bart., M.C

The Early Years 1884-1906

When Lt.-General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram died at Leigh Park on 9 December 1904, the family title, the baronetcy, passed to his only son, Frederick Loftus Francis Fitzwygram. Not only did the baronetcy pass to the younger Frederick but so did the Leigh Park Estate, making it the first and last time in its long history where the estate passed to the son of the family.

The new Sir Frederick, always known as “Young Freddie,” became the fifth baronet at the death of his father. He was aged twenty at the time and a student at Magdalen College, Oxford where he had been since 1902. Sir Frederick was born 11 August 1884 at Esher, in Surrey, to Sir Frederick Wellington John Fitzwygram and Angela, Lady Fitzwygram. His sister, Angela Augusta Alice, was born just over a year later on 11 September 1885. An older brother had been born on 26 August 1883 but only lived for a few hours.

His childhood at Leigh Park must have been idyllic, with such a huge estate as his and his sister’s playground. We first get a picture of “Freddie” when he was at Eton in 1898 at the age of fourteen. The following piece is from a magazine article about his mother and life at Leigh Park:

“Freddie” – whose full name is Frederick Loftus Francis – is fourteen, and is now at Eton, in Mr White Thompson’s house. He is talented, very studious, and possesses already a courtly charm of manner and speech that is remarkable in so young a boy. Both he and his sister ride well, and Freddie loves cricket and sport – especially shooting, the keeper at Leigh Park being of opinion that he will make a first-rate shot. He was very popular at his preparatory school and will probably be so at Eton.

Home Chat, 12 November 1898

Interestingly, in 1898 Freddie was sent to Eton, like his father and grandfather before him, but in the words of his father who left Eton “without the slightest knowledge of any subject which had been of the smallest use to him in after life” it was a surprise that he sent his son there. After Eton Freddie went up to Magdalen College, Oxford in October 1902 at the age of eighteen. At Oxford Freddie gained a

B.A. (Batchelor of Arts) in Modern History in 1906 and also while serving in the Royal Scots Guards received a Master of Arts degree in 1911.

While at Eton, and later at Oxford, Freddie took a big interest in hunting, especially beagling, in which he would eventually have his own high quality pack at Leigh Park. Another sport he played at Eton was cricket, which like beagling became a passion for him, especially during his army career and at Leigh Park where of course he had his own cricket pitch and pavilion, but more of that later.



“Young Freddie,” while a pupil
at Eton, 1898.

Home Chat, Model Mothers,
12 November 1898

Inheriting the baronetcy at such a young age brought about its own responsibility, but at least at Leigh Park he had his mother and sister to help with the running of the estate. In Lt-Gen Sir Frederick Fitzwygram’s will the estate passed to Lady Fitzwygram for life and Freddie received a trust fund of £37,000 with the option that:

He directed that his son should have the option of purchase of the lands and buildings at Leigh Park at cost. All the residue of his estate be left, subject to his wife’s interest, to his son for life, with remainder to his children, and failing issue to the persons who should succeed to the Fitzwygram baronetcy.

Hampshire Advertiser, 28 January 1905

On 11 August 1905 Freddie reached his majority at the age of twenty-one, which gave him more authority and responsibility, but previous to this he had accompanied his mother on a trip to the continent but it is unclear how long

they spent abroad. To celebrate his coming of age festivities took place at Leigh Park which was recorded in the local press, which also gives a brief description of the estate at Leigh Park:

There are to be festivities during the second week in next month at Leigh Park, Hants., to celebrate the coming of age of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, who has just returned home from the Continent, accompanied by his mother, Lady Fitzwygram. There will be a small party at Leigh Park for Goodwood races. The place which is near Havant is well situated on the edge of the old Forest of Bere. The house, which is of red brick, was rebuilt about forty years ago in the Gothic style. The gardens are beautiful and are celebrated for their extensive conservatories which contain many rare plants. The park known as The Thicket is a richly wooded tract of land seven hundred acres in extent with a picturesque lake in which are a number of islands. The gardens at Leigh Park were laid out by Sir George Staunton, who accompanied Lord Macartney on his embassy to China.

Hampshire Advertiser, 22 July 1905

Celebrations were indeed celebrated at Leigh Park on the day of his majority when a dinner was given 'to the tenantry and employees of whom two hundred were present'.

Just before he reached the age of twenty-one Freddie finished his studies at Magdalen College, Oxford in March 1906. The same year he completed his degree in Modern History receiving his Batchelor of Arts (B.A.). In May 1906 he was one of six nominations from Oxford University who were nominated by the University for a commission in the regular forces. Prior to this Freddie was involved in the Auxiliary Forces while at University becoming on 19 June 1905 a second-lieutenant. He was obviously at this time thinking of following his illustrious father Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Fitzwygram into an army career. On 30 June 1906 he was appointed a second-lieutenant in the Scots Guards.

The Leigh Park Beagles

In 1904 Sir Frederick established his own pack of beagles at Leigh Park with the kennels situated at Bondfield Cottages, a little distance from the mansion house. Whether Sir Frederick acquired an established pack is unknown but he quickly gained a reputation for careful breeding and establishing one of the finest packs

in the country. The first recorded record of the pack hunting hares is from the local press in October 1905 when they are recorded as a new pack:

The Leigh Park, a pack of eleven couples of thirteen and a half inches Stud Book Beagles which hunts usually on Wednesdays and Saturdays have for Master Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., who hunts them himself, with R. Trudget to turn to him. The kennels are at Leigh Park, Havant, and the country hunted over adjoins Havant and Petersfield, and this pack is new to the list.

Hampshire Advertiser, 28 October 1905

In October 1906 we get our first record of the beagles in action when the hunt started at Petersfield and hunted to the north of the town:

Leigh Park Beagles

On Saturday this pack met at Borough House, Petersfield, and finding near the railway ran fast pass Stroud Briockfield to Mustercombe Copse. Forcing their hare away at once hounds ran two big rings between Stroud and Langrish Village, when a short check was caused owing to the hare being headed, but after some slow hunting she was worked up to near Mustercombe Copse. Going away at a great pace towards Langrish the pack turned right-handed over the Petersfield-road and killed in Bordean Hanger after making a three-miles point in an hour and fifteen minutes. These hounds have been out on twelve days, and killed six brace of hares.

Hampshire Advertiser, 27 October 1906

It appears that the beagles hunted in quite a large area between Leigh Park and to the north of Petersfield but generally they started off at Stockheath Common to hunt locally. The hounds, which hunted during the autumn and winter seasons, are counted in couples and a pack number varies from about 10 to 25 couples. Not all hounds from a pack hunted on any one day but as we can see in the early days of the pack it measured eleven couples but it is unclear how many hounds made up the Leigh Park pack in its later years. Sir Frederick took his hunting very seriously and hunted whenever he could when he was on leave from his military career until the First World War intervened. Another example of the Leigh Park Beagles hunting in 1906 is again from the Hampshire Advertiser when they hunted more locally:

Leigh Park Beagles

The newly established pack hunted by Sir Frederick Fitzwygram met on Tuesday in last week at Horndean Down, and finding close to the Chalton-lane hounds raced away to Hogs Lodge and Butser Hill, making a three-mile point before turning right-handed across the bottom. After a long check on Hilhampton Down, where they chased a fresh hare taking them at a great pace to Hiden Cross Roads, then swinging right-handed into the valley she was lost on the Eastmeon road. From point to point this run gave seven miles.

Hampshire Advertiser, 3 November 1906

The best description of the Leigh Park Beagle pack is from an obituary of Sir Frederick in May 1915. It certainly shows what a fine pack it was and underlines the fact it was one of the best in the country:

The Leigh Park pack of 14-inch beagles were established in 1904 and by using first-rate judgement in the selection of brood stock, it speedily became one of the best balanced in the country, and individual hounds won high honours at both Reigate and Peterborough. Leigh Park Gossamer, indeed, the winner of the bitch cup at the last Peterborough show in 1914 is a model of what a dwarf hound should be, and she aroused the admiration not only of the best judges in the country. She was typical in every way and was one of the best hunters in the pack. The country hunted in Hampshire was between Liss and Havant; it lay in the foxhunting territories of the Hambledon, the H.H, and that of Lord Leconfield, and was partly grass, plough, and down.

The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News, 15 May 1920

The Leigh Park Beagles would have hunted regularly no doubt without Sir Frederick's presence, and he took up hunting once again when he returned to Leigh Park in December 1918 after his repatriation from being a prisoner of war. The Leigh Park Beagles last met on 15 March 1920 at Stockheath to hunt locally, this would have been the last time Sir Frederick rode with the hunt.



The Leigh Park Beagles, c.1910. The whipper-in, photographed in livery, was unkindly known as the "Dwarf". *Marshall Collection, H.C.C.*



Badly faded photograph of the Leigh Park Beagles on Portsdown Hill, c.1910, in front of one of the forts.

On 7 May 1920 Sir Frederick died and at some time in that year the pack was sold to Captain Keith Steuart Mussay Gladstone, who had previously been Master of the Beagles at Eton. Captain Gladstone was seven years younger than Sir Frederick and it is probable that because of their age difference they had never met at Eton:

The Leigh Park were one of the best looking and best working packs in the country, and for years, had been carefully bred by their Master Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, at Leigh Park, Havant. Upon Sir Frederick's death, Captain Gladstone was able to purchase them, and they came to the Forest, and kennels were built for them at Moortown House, Ringwood. They were then known as "The Ringwood Beagles", though, later, the name was changed to the "New Forest Beagles".

Sport and Sportsmen of the New Forest by C.R. Acton, early 1930s

The Ringwood Beagles first met in November 1921 under Captain Gladstone. The New Forest Beagle pack are still in existence and one wonders if any of the hounds are related to the original hounds from the Leigh Park pack.

Life at Leigh Park, 1904-1914

After the death of Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Fitzwygram life carried on in the same routine at Leigh Park. Although a London House at Portland Place still appeared to remain, Lady Fitzwygram and her daughter Angela still spent most of their time at Leigh Park. The park was opened up to certain groups and organisations as when under the days of the older Sir Frederick but one or two little changes did appear such as in the following article when a sum of 6s. was charged to cover the expense of the water supplied etc:

Leigh Park is a very favourite place for Sunday School outings, but it must be remembered that the juvenile trippers are now confined to the Park proper, while in addition the sum of 6s. per school is charged to cover the expense of the water supplied etc.

Portsmouth Evening News, 22 July 1905

Of course, with Sir Frederick away on his military career more responsibility fell onto Lady Fitzwygram and probably her daughter Angela in regards to the overall running of the estate. The usual activities were carried on at Leigh Park, the flower shows and gymkhana and horse shows, along with the Harvest Home for the Estate

employees, were highlights of the year and we can see that 1905, the year after the older Sir Frederick died, was as active as the previous years:

Leigh Park – Coming Gymkana

Lady Fitzwygram having given her patronage and Sir Frederick Fitzwygram having kindly lent the use of Leigh Park, a gymkhana has been arranged to be held there on October 4th. A capital programme has been arranged, and already the entries are numerous. The Hon. Secretary is Mr W. Shawe, care of the "Star Hotel", Havant. The whole of the gate receipts are to be divided between the Havant, Emsworth, and Portsmouth Hospitals.

Portsmouth Evening News, 26 September 1905



Sunday School outing at Leigh Park, early 20th century

But the beneficence and civic duty, inherited from all the previous owners of the estate, including the late Sir Frederick, was still manifest in the new owners as an example from Christmas 1905 suggests:

The Portsmouth Workhouse will present its customary cheery appearance at Christmas time. The late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram for many years was kind enough to send quantities of evergreens from Leigh Park to the institution, and the present holder of the title has written intimating that he proposes to follow the example of his father and to provide the material once more.

Portsmouth Evening News, 14 December 1905

It appears that there were no major changes to the actual estate during this period but one change that did take place was the retirement in 1908 of Charles Penfold as head-gardener, after twenty-seven-years-service to the Fitzwygram family. He was replaced by Arthur Herbert who was only aged twenty-five when he took on the position.

Leigh Park Harvest Home

On Saturday evening the annual harvest home supper was given to the employees of the Leigh Park Estate. The event had been postponed from time to time owing to Sir Frederick Fitzwygram being detained by his Military duties. He was now present, accompanied by Lady Fitzwygram, Miss Fitzwygram, the Rev. Canon Scott, the Rev. E. Jenkins-Bower, and the estate steward Mr G. Cox. A splendid and sumptuous repast was served in a marquee on the front lawn, the wives and children of the men being provided for in a separate marquee. The usual loyal toasts were submitted by Sir Frederick and very cordially received. The Chairman also submitted the toast, "Employees of Leigh Park Estate", touching on the various departments of work, and he also briefly alluded to political affairs. Afterwards the women and children joined the men, and an enjoyable programme of songs, resitations, and gramophone selections was given. A hearty vote of thanks to Sir Frederick on the proposition of Mr Cox concluded a happy evening.

Portsmouth Evening News, 20 October 1908

As in previous years under General Sir Frederick the lake, which froze on cold winters, was made available for those hardy souls who wished to skate on it. Photographs and articles up until the 1930s show the lake being used by skaters and others. Even an old film from the 1930s shows the frozen lake being used by skaters as they skate close to the Chinese Fort which was built by Sir George Staunton in the 1830s. The following article is from the Portsmouth Evening News of 29 January 1909. The photograph which follows, dates from the early 1900s and may even have been the year of the article:

At Leigh Park also many skaters indulged in the winter sport yesterday evening and the frost having continued all night, it seemed pretty certain that there would be a number of enthusiasts on the lake today.

Portsmouth Evening News, 29 January 1909



The Ashling Maypole Dancers at Leigh Park, early 20th century



Skating on the lake, early 1900s. Leigh Park House can just be seen in the distance.



Another winter's day at Leigh Park with the lake frozen. This undated photograph again shows skaters on the lake.

Interestingly, on 24 January 1914, months before the start of the Great War the lake was once again frozen and opened to visitors to skate.

An Estate map dated 1909 shows the estate in all of its glory – little changed from the days of William Stone. It shows the three drives that led into the estate, all three entrances were via a gated lodge entrance. The map shows the entrance at Stable Lodge (Staunton's Middle Lodge), close to the coach-house and stables, this lodge it was believed was used by tradesmen etc vesting the estate. The southern entrance would have been via South Lodge, situated on Petersfield Road, almost opposite where the Bartons Road entrance now stands. The third entrance would have been, and the lodge still remains, at Redhill, opposite the Staunton Arms Public House. This entrance and drive would have been used by coaches coming from London and anywhere north of the estate and it wound its way through the woodland towards the mansion. This was the only lodge added by William Stone, all the others were built during Sir George Staunton's tenure.



Estate Map of the Leigh Park Estate, 1909 showing the mansion, coach-house and lake.

The map also shows that at this time a large percentage of the park and gardens created by Sir George Staunton remain. One small change is the walled garden created by William Stone (Storey Gardens) appears to have become more of an orchard at this period. Fruit trees such as apple, plum and damson were still bearing fruit in the 1970s but only a few of the trees were remaining at this time. It is believed that the Fitzwygram family used Sir George Staunton's ornamental walled garden on the southern part of the estate more as a fruit and vegetable garden. The older Sir Frederick had added further glasshouses into Staunton's walled garden after he acquired the estate in 1874. A melon and cucumber house was built close to the Victoria Regia House and this remained until the 1980s. Further lean-to greenhouses were erected by Sir Frederick on the west and east walls. The west wall greenhouse was demolished in the late 1970s, but the east wall greenhouse still survives.

In July 1912, an incident happened at Leigh Park which appears rather comic and sad at the same time and is connected to the stealing of water lilies from the pond at the top of the Avenue at Leigh Park. The Portsmouth Evening News again recorded the incident and the rather sad outcome:

A Refined Tramp

Evidence of a great deal of damage to the ornamental pond at Leigh Park was given in the course of a charge of theft against a tramp named Patrick McCarthy, who was smartly captured by Constable Read at Rowlands Castle. The constable noticed the prisoner had a basket on his back, and investigating its contents found thirty-one dozen water lilies which appeared to have been freshly cut. The prisoner said he had obtained the lilies from Virginia Water. The constable sent for the Head-Gardener at Leigh Park, but he was unable to trace the loss of the lilies, and the prisoner was released. The constable personally examined a second pond at Leigh Park, and there found indications of the pond being entered, and the lilies disturbed. He thereupon hurried after the prisoner and overtook him at Drayton. The prisoner, who beneath his trampish garb was obviously a man of some education and refinement, questioned the constable as to his evidence. When Constable Read overtook McCarthy at Drayton, and told him of his discovery at the second pond prisoner replied "All right, old sport". The Head-Gardener informed the Bench that all the best of the blooms had gone. – Prisoner now denied that he took the lilies. – He was further charged in the name of James Christian, alias Crytal, for having on June 29 being a person subject to the supervision of the police, unlawfully failed to notify a change of residence. It was said that the prisoner was sentenced at the Middlesex Sessions to four years penal servitude and two years police supervision. – Prisoner, who said "his ticket had expired," was sent to prison for a month.

Portsmouth Evening News, 12 July 1912

The 1912 annual flower, fruit and vegetable show for "the encouragement principally for the tenants on the estate" was held at Leigh Park on 27 July and was recorded better and larger than the show the previous year and was always a well-attended affair as the following article records:

Flower Show at Leigh Park - Successful Exhibitions

The annual flower, fruit and vegetable show, promoted by Sir Frederick and Lady Fitzwygram for the encouragement principally for the tenants on their estate, was held at Leigh Park on Saturday afternoon.

The competition being not strictly confined to the estate precincts, but open to cottagers and allotment holders of Havant, Emsworth, Bedhampton, Farlington, Hayling Island etc, a capital exhibition usually results, and this year proved no exception to the rule. The entry was considerably larger than at the last season's display, which was adversely affected by the prolonged draught, and the produce shown was of excellent quality throughout. The class for collections of vegetables elicited surprisingly keen competition and the judges had considerable difficulty placing the winners. Potatoes were shapely, and a good size, whilst the other produce of the vegetable garden, onions, turnips, carrots, cabbages, runner beans etc, included some splendidly grown specimens in all the classes. The principal prize-taker in this section of the show was Mr E. Bettesworth, who also led the way in the fruit classes, which included a first-class show of apples. Again the department for flowers provided a pleasing show of colour and variety of blooms. Notably were the entries of cut roses, whilst a fine effort was produced by the bouquets, both as regard the flowers selected and their arrangement. The majority of the honours in these classes fell to Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hensley and Mr E. Cobb, who quite deserved their success.

As usual the school children entered into the competition for wild flowers with great interest. The duty of judging was again entrusted to Alderman Power of Portsmouth, whose awards appeared to give general satisfaction. Mr Herbert, head-gardener at Leigh Park, had previously judged the cottage flower gardens, and found them in excellent condition, the result being a very close competition. Lady Fitzwygram distributed the prizes on the front lawn in the afternoon assisted by Mr G. Cox, the estate steward.

Portsmouth Evening News, 29 July 1912

Leading up to the start of the First World War Leigh Park was well used by different organisations, some political such as the Conservative Association and the Primrose League, an organisation formed in 1883 to encourage and support the Conservative cause. The primrose was the favourite flower of Benjamin Disraeli, the former leader

of the Conservative party and former Prime Minister and the organisation took its name from that fact. It held meetings at Leigh Park on an almost yearly basis with of course the late baronet Lt. General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram a great supporter and former member of parliament in the conservative cause. Luckily a photograph survives from the meeting of the Portsmouth District Primrose League on 26 July 1913 showing Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, M.P. for Portsmouth, addressing a large crowd at Leigh Park on the state of the navy. The following news article reports the actual meeting with ominous warnings from Lord Charles Beresford of what was to come only a couple of years later:

First Lord's Critics - Lord Charles Beresford at Leigh Park

On Saturday afternoon there was an immense encourage of members and friends of the Portsmouth Division of the Primrose League at Leigh Park, Havant, by kind permission of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. The Park was transformed into a fair-ground, and there were numerous side shows, refreshment booths, roundabouts etc. The Havant Town Band performed at intervals, under the conductorship of Professor Styles, late of the band of the Black Watch. A mass meeting was held in the afternoon, presided over by Col. A.R Holbrook, D.L., and addresses were given by the two members for Portsmouth and others.

Colonel Holbrook accused the present government of ignoring all the principles held by the Primrose League, and said the League had come to the conclusion that it was their duty to attach themselves to the Unionist party alone in the future.

Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., after paying a tribute to the memory of the late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, devoted his remarks to the question of national defence, upon which hung everything else – social reform, liberty, religion, and all we prided ourselves. He agreed with the criticism of the Press of the last few days, in which it was stated that a crisis far more vital than that which occurred in 1900 would shortly occur in this country. Why was this in the first place, because we now had no standard for our Fleet. The First Lord of the Admiralty did at one time put forward a standard, which, however, some of them thought was too small; but now that standard of 60 per cent above any other nation had entirely disappeared. The Rt. Hon. Gentleman had had a good many standards. His political standard was somewhat after the style of the weather-vane. His last



Admiral Lord Charles Beresford addressing Members of the Primrose League at Leigh Park, 26 July 1913

standard for the Navy was quality versus quantity. That did not do for our fleet. Although the quality of its officers and men was second to none in the world. We had now three ships short of the 60 per cent, and three short of what was promised by the Canadians for our world-wide defence They must not think he was finding fault with the Canadians. Those ships would come, but would they come in time, now we had abandoned the middle sea, the Mediterranean.

Portsmouth Evening News, 28 July 1913

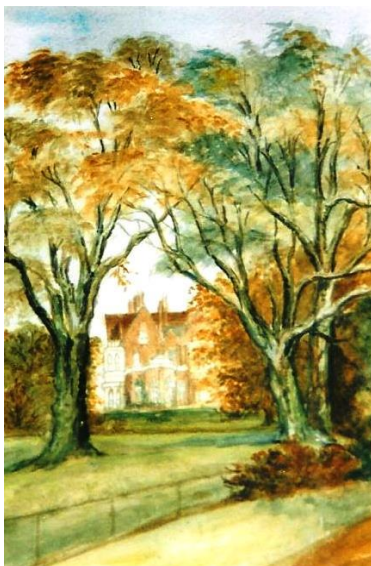
Between 1911 and 1913 Angela Fitzwygram painted a series of watercolours of Leigh Park. The paintings eventually were passed to Sir Clifford Wigram who in January 1991 donated the set of six paintings to Havant Museum.



The Gardens at Leigh Park, watercolour painted 1911. Note the peacocks which until recent times were still a feature of the estate.



Leigh Park House, 1911-13



The Avenue painted from the mansion



The Lake, Leigh Park, 1911-13



Leigh Park House and Lake, photographed 1900-07

On 19 October 1912 the *Portsmouth Evening News* dedicated a whole page to the delights of Havant, including Leigh Park, recording the wonderful history of the Havant area. It is not for this publication to reflect on the glorious history of Havant but we shall record the words written on Leigh Park:



Any reference to Havant would be incomplete without mention of Leigh Park the beautiful residence of Lady Fitzwygram, and the young baronet, Sir Frederick. There are few Havant, or, indeed, Portsmouth people who not enjoyed the kindness with which the late Sir Frederick and the present baronet have thrown the grounds open from time to time for school functions and similar occasions, also only three miles away, enabling the visitors to revel in the handsomely timbered park, or to view the products of the extensive range of glasshouses.

In February 1913 the Fitzwygram family and Leigh Park lost one of the estate's most highly esteemed members, namely with the death of George Cox, who for over thirty-one years was the steward of the estate. A former sergeant-major in the Royal Engineers Mr Cox had worked firstly as steward for Lt.-General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and then from 1904 for Lady and Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. His funeral at St. John's Church, Redhill, Rowlands Castle was attended by a large gathering from the Leigh Park Estate and the wider area showing how well thought of he was in the neighbourhood:

The Late Mr George Cox – Funeral Tributes at Redhill

On Tuesday afternoon the funeral of the late Mr George Cox, who for over 31 years was steward of the Leigh Park Estate, Havant, took place, the remains being laid to rest in the pretty little churchyard of Redhill, between Rowlands Castle and Havant. Deceased was held in high esteem both in Havant and

Portsmouth, and there was a large gathering of public, Leigh Park tenantry, Freemasons, and tradesmen of the district at the obsequies.

Enclosed in a polished oak coffin, the remains were borne from the residence, Leigh Cottage, near the principal entrance to the Park, to Redhill church on a funeral car, the private mourners, who followed in carriages, including the three sons, Messrs George, Frank, and Thomas Cox and Misses Nellie, Fanny, Emma, Ada, and Florry Cox, daughters. Lady Fitzwygram, widow of the late General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., and her son Sir Frederick Fitzwygram Bart., with Miss Fitzwygram followed in a private carriage.

At the churchyard gate, the funeral cortege was received by the Rev. Canon Scott, Rector of Havant, by whom the service was conducted in the presence of a full congregation. The grave was lined with evergreens and flowers. There were many beautiful floral wreaths and crosses, among those sending them being Sir Frederick and Lady Fitzwygram: "In memory of many years friendship and faithful service, the Carnarvon Lodge of Freemasons No. 804" in a beautiful broken pillar, represented by white flowers. Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis, & Co. (land agents), who were also represented among the mourners, the members and Clerk of North Havant Parish Council, and several others.

Portsmouth Evening News, 12 February 1913

Mr Cox was replaced as steward by William Fowles until the late 1920s when George Fotheringham took over as the last steward to the Fitzwygram family.

In September 1913 the last Harvest Home dinner was held at Leigh Park with Sir Frederick, Lady Fitzwygram and Angela Fitzwygram attending. Sir Frederick remarked that:

Since their last gathering they had sustained a great loss in the death of their steward, Mr George Cox, and he spoke feelingly of his many fine qualities which had endeared him to them all in a long and honoured career. He had left an example to be followed. The harvest this year had been good, and the crops gathered in in favourable weather. Sir Frederick briefly touched upon the political aspect, and the toast, so ably proposed was warmly accorded.

Portsmouth Evening News, 8 September 1913

Major Sir Frederick Loftus Francis Fitzwygram, Bart., M.C. 1907-1918

As we have seen Sir Frederick still managed to spend whatever time he could at Leigh Park from his demanding military career, attending a variety of functions. In 1907 he became, like his father before him, a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Havant Bench when available. In 1909 he was awarded his first military promotion to First Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion Scot's Guards. Not too much information is available regarding Sir Frederick's military career leading up to the start of the First World War, but he certainly went on to play his part during the first two years of the war. It is believed that in 1912 he may have been stationed at Egypt for a period but no further information is known.

The First World War – Sir Frederick Fitzwygram

At the end of July 1914 the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, was quartered at the Tower of London, under the command of Lt.-Colonel R.G.I. Bolton, a cousin-in-law of Sir Frederick, doing the ordinary duties of that post in peace time. By the morning of the 4 August it had been called on to send 50 men and three officers to the London Docks. War was imminent, and was declared the same night. Everybody belonging to the battalion was busy with mobilisation. There were detachments out at such places as the London and Victoria and Albert Docks, the Post Office, the Bank, Woolwich, Abbey Wood Ammunition Factory, and Deptford Storage Wharf.

Mobilisation was quickly completed but the 2nd Battalion still remained at the Tower while the 1st Battalion went off with the first four divisions of the British Expeditionary Force. By the 20 September 1914 the 2nd Battalion was in camp at Lyndhurst in the New Forest, where the 7th Division was forming. But though the 2nd Scots Guards was ready for immediate service, there were other battalions still arriving from Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar, which had to be awaited before a start could be made. On 4 October the battalion marched for Southampton and began to embark for France at midnight. The 2nd Scots Guards had a strength of 31 officers under Lt.-Col. Bolton, with 3 Majors, 6 Captains, 15 Lieutenants, including Sir Frederick, 5 Second-Lieutenants, 1 warrant officer, 43 sergeants, 30 corporals, 20 drummers, and 879 privates: total of 1,004 all ranks. The 2nd Scots Guards were a unit of the 20th Infantry Brigade, the other battalions being 1st Grenadier Guards, 2nd Border Regiment, and 2nd Gordon Highlanders.

The 20th Infantry Brigade, with 21st and 22nd Infantry Brigades, made up the infantry of the 7th Division. The 7th Division landed at Zeebrugge on 7 October and the 20th Infantry Brigade were sent to Ghent two days later. At Ghent the battalion was received by the population with great enthusiasm, which took a welcome material shape in gifts of food and tobacco for the men.

Sir Frederick first saw action in the First Battle of Ypres which lasted from 10 October till 22 November 1914. The First Battle of Ypres is one of the iconic early battles of the Great War fought on the Western Front around Ypres, in western Belgium. The battle was part of the First Battle of Flanders, in which German, French and Belgian armies and the British Expeditionary Force fought from Arras in France to Nieuport on the Belgian coast. The battles at Ypres began at the end of the Race to the Sea, reciprocal attempts by the German and Franco-British armies to advance past the northern flank of their opponents. The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards came into action on the 15 October, in the Ypres neighbourhood. Initially in reserve the 2nd Scots Guards saw heavy action during the battle, especially between 22 and 26 October when tremendous fighting took place. One officer of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards described the shelling of the trenches on 25 October as:

"Never have I been through such a day as it was. It was a veritable hell on earth. There was an incessant shower of shells from 7.30 a.m. till 6 p.m. Luckily, the majority of the shells fell well in rear of the trenches, and therefore did little or no damage. However, two shells struck the edge of my trench, knocked down the four of us who were sitting there, and broke down all the loopholes of that section. No one was hurt beyond bruises."

The Great Scots In the Great War, 1914-1918: The First Battle of Ypres – F. Loraine Petre, Wilfrid Ewart & Major General Sir Cecil Lowther, 1925.

Heavy losses were taken by the British and many were taken prisoner by the Germans. The officers of the battalion taken included Colonel Bolton and five other officers with two officers killed. On 27 October when the 2nd Scots Guards mustered there remained but 12 officers, including Lieutenant Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, and 460 men. The Scots Guards out of their division had the heaviest casualties. On 27 October the battalion was withdrawn to reorganise and report casualties and deficiencies. Of this period of the battle Major General Sir Thomas

Capper, commanding the 7th Division, afterwards reported the heroic action of the battalion during battle:

"2nd Battalion Scots Guards – as part of the 20th Infantry Brigade, this battalion assisted to hold the exposed position of Kruisecke in front of Ypres during the week. On the night of 25th-26th October they were almost completely surrounded by the enemy, and were attacked in front and rear; nevertheless, their reserve company counter-attacked the enemy and drove them from some houses, capturing 8 officers and 200 other prisoners. During the fighting this battalion lost very heavily.

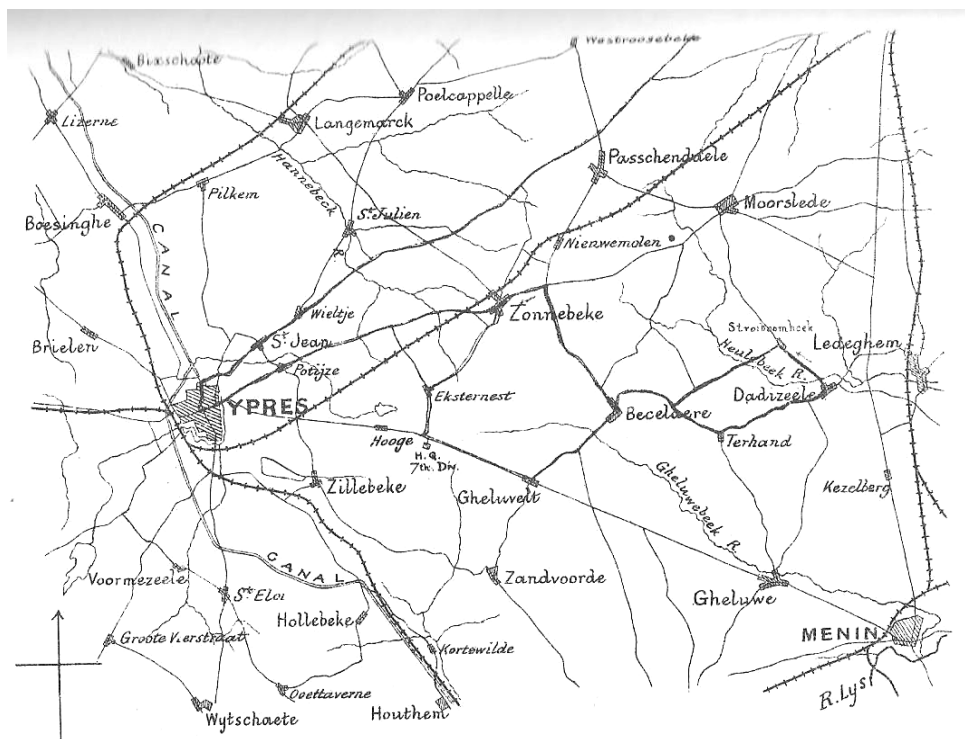
On subsequent occasions this battalion showed the greatest tenacity, and, as the fighting went on this battalion seemed to me actually to gain in cohesion and firmness, in spite of weakened members and severe losses in officers. This testifies more than anything else I can say to the true soldiering spirit with which it possessed."

The Great Scots In the Great War, 1914-1918 : The First Battle of Ypres – F. Loraine Petre, Wilfrid Ewart & Major General Sir Cecil Lowther, 1925.

The 1st Battalion Scots Guards unfortunately suffered even more casualties during the battle and on the 16 November were taken out of the firing line when all that remained was one combatant officer, the Quartermaster, and 73 men.



2nd Battalion Scots Guards approaching Ypres 14 October 1914 (I.W.M.)



The Ypres Salient, October 1914

The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards at dawn on 29 October returned to its dug-outs at Veldhoek after a day's rest. The German artillery was at this time concentrating its fire on the Menin Road. Between 10-11 a.m. the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards and the 2nd Queens were sent up to counter-attack north-eastwards after the 1st Grenadiers and 1st Gordon Highlanders had suffered badly and had been driven back. The success of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards and other battalions was successful and at the end of the advance the Scots Guards found themselves well in front of the general line regained by other troops. Their withdrawal to the general line was disastrous, for in the darkness and rain troops in the line mistook them for the enemy and fired into them, causing considerable casualties. Their losses on this day amounted to 31 killed and 104 wounded. Only 150 men could be mustered that night, though apparently others dribbled in later. The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards were sent back to a wooded area to cover the guns. Since the 27 October it had lost four officers and 136 men.

On 6 November the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards were sent to the Army Reserve at Meteren. On 11 November the battalion was joined by a draft of seven new officers and 250 other ranks and the next day a further 285 men arrived with a further five officers. It was visited on the 13 November by Field Marshall Sir John French, who complimented the battalion on its fine performance at Ypres. For Sir Frederick Fitzwygram it meant he escaped unscathed from his first action of the war, after the loss of so many officers, and he also earned a promotion to temporary Captain on 30 October 1914.

On 14 November 1914 the 2nd Scots Guards marched to a different part of the Front. Passing through Bailleul, they reached and took over from the 19th Brigade in trenches at Sailly, on the right bank of the Lys, two miles north-east of Estaires. This would now become the long commencement and stale-mate of trench warfare, which characterised the greater part of the war on the Western Front. The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards were now going to experience its first winter in wet and cold trenches. The battalion first raid on the German trenches was on the night of 27-28 November but it was not until the 18 December 1914 that the first serious attack on the German trenches began. The attack was led by Captain Loder with two companies ("F" and "L.F."). Sir Frederick Fitzwygram was to lead the "F" Company on the right and Captain H. Taylor the "L.F." Company on the left. The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards were joined by the Border Regiment and 6 p.m. they were to crawl through the British wire and lie down outside it at which Captain Loder would give the signal and the line would move forward together, walking until the Germans opened fire, and then rush the German trenches.

Unfortunately, owing to the noise of the gunfire, the whistle signal was not heard throughout the line, and by the time it had moved forward 60 yards it was apparent that the line was irregular with the centre under Captain Loder already on top of the German trenches almost without the Germans opening fire. However, with not enough manpower to hold the German trenches with men of the "F" Company reaching the German trenches only in places and the attack was not a great success with heavy casualties on the British side. The failure of the attack appears to have been due to the signal not being heard everywhere and the men being split into groups. The heavy casualties were down to the cross-fire of German machine guns. The next day the battalion was withdrawn to Divisional Reserve at Sailly.

General Capper, commanding the 7th Division received the following order on the attack saying:

The IV Corps Commander desires me to say that he has received the report of the gallant conduct of the two companies of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards under Captain Loder, in the attack last night on the enemy's trenches. The Corps Commander is sorry that the trenches could not be held, and he much regrets the loss of so many gallant officers and men. The attempt, though not completely successful in itself, has been of great use and service in the general plan of the Allied Armies.

The Great Scots In the Great War, 1914-1918: The First Battle of Ypres – F. Loraine Petre, Wilfrid Ewart & Major General Sir Cecil Lowther, 1925.

The casualties in this attack were about 180 other ranks, nearly 50 per cent of the number engaged and Captain Taylor, who led the “L.F.” Company was killed along with two lieutenants. Sadly Sir Frederick Fitzwygram was wounded in the head on the attack along with three other officers:

L.F. Company:

Killed: Captain H. Taylor

Missing, Killed : 2nd Lieutenant R.F.R. Nugent

Wounded: Lieutenant Hon. J. St. V.B. Suaumarez

F Company

Killed: Lieutenant Hon. F. Hanbury-Tracy

Wounded: Lieutenant Sir F. Fitzwygram

Died of Wounds: Lieutenant G.C.L. Otley

Sir Frederick who received shrapnel in his head was sent back to England to convalesce and returned to Leigh Park to be with his mother, Lady Fitzwygram, and sister, Angela. It is unclear how long Sir Frederick remained from the Front but on 28 January 1915 he was promoted to the rank of Captain in his own right.

His wounds, along with other officers of the Scots Guards was quickly recorded in the press, the following article was from the Essex Newsman printed on Boxing Day, 1914:

Sir F. Fitzwygram Wounded

Capt. F. L. F. Fitzwygram, Scots Guards, of Walthamstow, who is reported wounded under date Dec. 20, is the fifth baronet of his line. Born in 1881, he succeeded in 1901 his father, Lieut-General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, M.P., a veteran of the Crimea, who afterwards became Colonel of the 15th Hussars.

Other newspapers recorded the event in the new year, some two months after the incident, such as the *Daily Record* of 20 February 1915 which carried a photograph of Sir Frederick on its front cover:



Lieut, Sir F. Fitzwygram, (2nd Scots Guards) who has been seriously wounded in the head.

His battalion, the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, meanwhile, as part of the 7th Division, were heading for the Neuve Chappelle area which formed a salient in the German line and on 10 March 1915 marched to dug-outs in Cameron Lane, near Pont du Hem, on the east-side of the Estaires-La Basse Road. Before dawn on the 12 March the battalion moved out under shell fire to a point where the Neuve Chapelle-Fauquissart road was met by a communication trench taken from the enemy. Orders were given to attack a fort and house held by the enemy with the Border Regiment to storm the fort and the Scots Guards to attack the house, which was 300 yards beyond the fort. Unfortunately, the attack was postponed officially but the message never got through to the 2nd Battalion who went ahead with the attack.

The 2nd Scots Guards were represented by little more than two companies in this attack; for in the early morning darkness and missed most of "R.F." and the whole of

“F” got separated from “L.F.” and “G”. The capture of the fort was a necessary preliminary to an attack on the house and Scots Guards united with the Borders in the assault on the fort. The attack on the fort resulted in the capture of about 300 Germans and a machine gun. The defended house, which had been assigned at the objective of the 2nd Scots Guards, was not reached. Sir Frederick played no part in this action as he was still convalescing from his earlier wounds. A letter from General Capper, commanding the division, dated 27 March 1915, said:

“The conduct of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards on the 12 March in an attack was very gallant and devoted. Owing to messengers being killed, the postponement of the attack was not notified to this battalion, which consequently attempted most gallantly to advance without artillery support. In spite of losses caused by this, the battalion gallantly and successfully attacked later on in the same day and captured several hundred prisoners.”

The Great Scots In the Great War, 1914-1918 : The First Battle of Ypres – F. Loraine Petre, Wifrid Ewart & Major General Sir Cecil Lowther, 1925.

It appears that after this attack the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards went into reserve and set about training of all descriptions and on 19 April were inspected by Field Marshall Sir John French, who afterwards addressed the battalion and congratulated them, along with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards on the fine work they had achieved. It was not until early May when the battalion is again seen in action. At this time out of the contingent of officers of the 2nd Battalion only two, Captain Warner and Lieutenant and Quartermaster Ross who had escaped unscathed. On 20 April the 2nd Battalion were once again in trenches which appeared quiet until 15 May which was the first day of what became known as the Battle of Festubert.

Sir Frederick returned to his battalion just in time for the battle. As late as 12 May 1914 he was still in England and on that day he was playing cricket for the Household Brigade versus the M.C.C.

The Battle of Festubert (15-27 May 1914)

The Scots Guards, as part of the 7th Division were part of the First Army under Field Marshall Douglas Haig, which also included the 1st Corps, 2nd, 47th, 51st Divisions as well as 1st Canadian Divisions. The First Army Operation Order, 13 May 1915, set out the tactical objectives:

The general plan of the main attack will be as follows: To continue pressing forward towards Violaines and Beau Puits, establish a defensive flank along the La Bassee road on the left and maintaining the right at Givenchy. The line to be established in the first instance if possible on the general line of the road Festubert – La Quinque Rue – La Tourelle crossroads – Port Arthur. The position to be consolidated and the troops reformed and communication established. While this line is being established, a general bombardment on the whole front will continue with a special bombardment of the next objectives, viz: Rue d'Ouvert – Rue du Marais. When ready a fresh advance will be ordered on these objectives.

As far as the part the 2nd Scots Guards played in the battle, as at Neuve Chapelle, the brunt of the fighting at Festubert fell upon the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. On 15 May at 8.40 a.m. the battalion began their march to the trenches they were to occupy for the forthcoming attack, stretching west from Prince's Road. These trenches, from which the attack was to proceed, at first parallel to Prince's Road, were occupied by 11 p.m. The general plan of operations in this part was for the 20th Brigade to attack on a Front of two battalions, the Scots Guards on the right (west), and the Border Regiment on the left, Prince's Road being the dividing line at first between the two battalions. The Scots Guards to be supported by the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, the Border Regiment by the Grenadier Guards. There was a starting gap of about a quarter of a mile between the right of the Scots Guards and the left of the Royal Fusiliers (22nd Division), which would be closed as the advance proceeded.

When the first line of German trenches should be taken, the Borders would swing to their left, leaving the Scots Guards to cross the road and also swing to their left, having as their next objective the orchard on the east of Prince's Road close to its junction with the Rue de Cailoux. This would eventually bring the 20th Brigade into a line facing east, with the right of the Scots Guards about La Quinque Rue, and the 22nd Brigade prolonging the line to the right.

Half an hour's bombardment, commencing at 2.45 p.m., would prepare the way for the infantry attack at 3.15. In the assembly trenches the companies were lined up in two ranks along the parapet, in the order from right to left "L.F.", "G", "F" (under Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram), "R.F.", and the platoons were posted with that of the lowest number in each company on the right.

The German wire was cut only for about 100 yards opposite the left of the Scots Guards, and it was therefore necessary to make the attack in depth on this space. During the night the British wire was cleared in front of the position, and ladders were placed to facilitate getting over the breastwork. The first two platoons started over the parapet three minutes before the bombardment ended, so as to be as close as possible to the German trench when it did cease.

The first line was too rapid in its movements, and "R.F." was held up momentarily by British shells bursting on the German parapet. Captain Bagot-Chester rushing forward then, led the first line into the trench, where the few Germans still left were bayoneted or captured. The other lines followed at intervals of about 50 yards, all of them passing forward from the German first line, except the last, which was ordered to consolidate the position there and await the arrival of the 1st Gordon Highlanders to take over. The rest pushed on rapidly to the capture of the orchard, where again there was no very great resistance, though heavy casualties occurred from a cross-fire of machine guns.

From the orchard the battalion swung to its left as ordered, with its right directed on La Quinque Rue, and the 22nd Brigade making for a position on its right. Some men of the Scots Guards, in the excitement and confusion of battle, got separated and mixed up with the Royal Welsh Fusileers of the 22nd Brigade, but the majority carried out their leftwing swing, and the leading companies got forward to a line running north from La Quinque Rue to the Rue des Cailloux. It was extended on the right by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers of the 22nd Brigade.

Meanwhile, the Border Regiment, on the left of the Scots Guards, had been held up at a point considerably short of the north-east corner of the orchard, and consequently the left flank of the Scots Guards was exposed as it advanced eastwards, and was severely enfiladed from the German trenches on that side.

When "F" Company, under Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, with Lieutenants Marsham-Townshend and Garforth, had reached a point south of the Rue des Cailloux, between it and La Quinque Rue, they were very heavily fired on by machine guns, and strongly counter-attacked from an orchard on the left, as well as from their left-rear. The time was still only about 5.30 a.m. About forty men of "F" fought their way out to the right, and eventually joined the Royal Welsh Fusileers about La Quinque Rue, but, with the exception of these, the whole of "F" Company was cut off and surrounded by the enemy. How gallantly they fought was shown by the state of

the ground, where German and Scots Guards' dead lay mingled together, where they had fought the fight to its bitter end.

There is some doubt as to the exact point at which "F" Company was overwhelmed. The account given above is based on the Adjutant's diary, Major Cator's report, and a pencil note in the diary to the effect that Captain Warner indicated the spot as given above.

On the other hand, Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's own account, written from Germany, where he was a prisoner, includes a rough sketch which represents the orchard as on the right of Prince's Road, instead of on the left as in the marked official map in the regimental records. This rough sketch represents the place where he was counter-attacked as being in the angle formed by Prince's Road on the east and the Rue des Cailloux on the south. This would be very far short of the place described in the diary, and still farther short of that indicated by Captain Warner. Sir Frederick Fitzwygram shows the counter-attacks as coming from the two sides of the angle, and the one which cut him off as the more northerly of two from Prince's Road. He also says that he had got as far forward as was ordered, but had had to fall back to this point, owing to British "shorts". He was himself wounded in the arm, and was unconscious when he was picked up by the Germans.

In dealing with this matter, it must be remembered that roads which are clearly marked on the printed map might easily fail to be recognised in the battle after the fearful shelling they had had. Curiously enough, on the map is marked another orchard just behind the position indicated by Captain Warner. Is it possible that Sir Frederick confused that orchard and the one near Prince's Road? It hardly seems likely, as he distinctly says that his orchard was probably what newspaper accounts represented as the third German line. There were two German trenches only short of the Prince's Road orchard.

What is for certain was that Sir Frederick was wounded in the attack and was also, along with few other men of his battalion, taken prisoner. At 8.30 p.m. the Grenadiers and the 6th Gordon Highlanders were ordered to take over the front line from the Scots Guards, the Grenadiers on the left and Gordons on the right holding the German first line from the point of entry southwards, in support. At this time only six of the 16 officers who had gone forward with the battalion in the morning was present. The whole of "F" Company was missing or absent, as well as one platoon of

"L.F." "R.F." could only muster 30 men. The total casualties could not then be ascertained.

Later in the night there came in 37 survivors of "F" Company. These men as has been mentioned above, succeeded in forcing a way through the German attack on "F", and reaching the Royal Welsh Fusiliers of the 22nd Brigade, to whom they attached themselves. With them they joined in the fighting of the day, with such gallantry as drew from the O.C. Royal Welsh Fusiliers a report acknowledging the valuable services they had rendered.*

*Most of the reporting of the 2nd Battalion's deeds during the Great War are taken, among over records, from: *The Scots Guards In the Great War, 1914-1918 : The First Battle of Ypres* – F. Loraine Petre, Wifrid Ewart & Major General Sir Cecil Lowther, 1925

There were several newspaper reports on the battle of Festubert, and another account of how heroically the Scots Guards fought is worth recording. The following report was written for the *Daily Mail* by the noted journalist Mr G. Valentine Williams and though written in a heroic manner still tells the same story of how valiant and gallant the Scots Guards fought:

How the Scots Guards Died

A great wide grave somewhere near the Rue du Bois, a ragged country road about which the battle raged, contains the remnants of a company of Scots Guards, eighty gallant 'Jocks' and two of their officers, who died rather than nullify the Guards boast that they had never lost a trench in this war. The lost company formed part of the 2nd Battalion of this historic regiment which went forward with the rest of the infantry through a green vapour of lyddite smoke to attack the German trenches. The heavy casualties which they have suffered in this war have not been allowed to affect the standard of physique which was ever the pride of the Jocks, and it was a truly splendid set of men that dashed across the open, Sir Frederick Fitzwygram at their head, side by side with the Borders, in the face of a murderous fire. The Borders, badly enfiladed by machine guns fire, were checked in their rush; the Guards, more fortunate, went on, one company outdistancing the rest. That company was never seen again.

After the first stage of the fight was done word came back to the Brigade headquarters that the British troops had found and buried the bodies of two Guards officers about the spot where the lost company had been seen, with the Germans pouring a murderous fire from three sides. A officer was sent to investigate. This is what he found. Over against two rough crosses marking the graves of the two officers eighty Scots Guards lay dead in the open. Their comrades, who had given decent sepulchral to the two officers of the party, had not had time, in the heat of the fight, to bury the men. Soaked by the rain, blackened by the sun, their bodies were not beautiful to look upon; but the German dead spread plentifully around. The empty cartridge cases scattered all about, the twisted bayonets and the broken rifles shows a price a Scots Guard sets upon his honour. No monarch ever had a finer lying-in-state than those eighty Guardsmen dead amid the long coarse grass of this dreary Flanders plain.

The Daily Mail, 29 July 1915

At first Sir Frederick was posted as missing, presumed dead but it was quickly found out that he had been taken prisoner. It was not that long before word reached Leigh Park that Sir Frederick was a prisoner of the Germans, as the *The Times* and the *Portsmouth Evening News* recorded:

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram Owner of Leigh Park Taken Prisoner by Germans

News has reached Leigh Park to the effect that Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., who has been serving at the Front as a Captain in the Scots Guards, has been taken prisoner by the enemy. Sir Frederick had been missing since Monday, and we understand that Lady Fitzwygram has now ascertained that he had falling into the hands of the Germans. Later a report reached Leigh Park stating that Sir Frederick had been captured, together with other officers and men of his battalion.

Several months ago Sir Frederick received a shrapnel wound in the head, and after a sojourn at Leigh Park during convalescence he re-joined his regiment.

Portsmouth Evening News, 22 May 1915

The Times printed on the 18 June 1915 that:

Lady Fitzwygram of Leigh Park, Havant, received information yesterday that her son, Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Scots Guards, is a prisoner in Germany, and is quite well. He was last seen leading his company into action a month ago. On 24 May he was unofficially stated to be a prisoner, and two days later he was officially reported missing.

In early July 1915 newspapers reported that Sir Frederick was in a German Field Hospital at Lille with a compound fracture of the right shoulder, presumably the wound he received before his capture by the Germans. Other reports stated that he was a patient at a hospital in Dusseldorf in Germany. A further newspaper report stated:

Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram

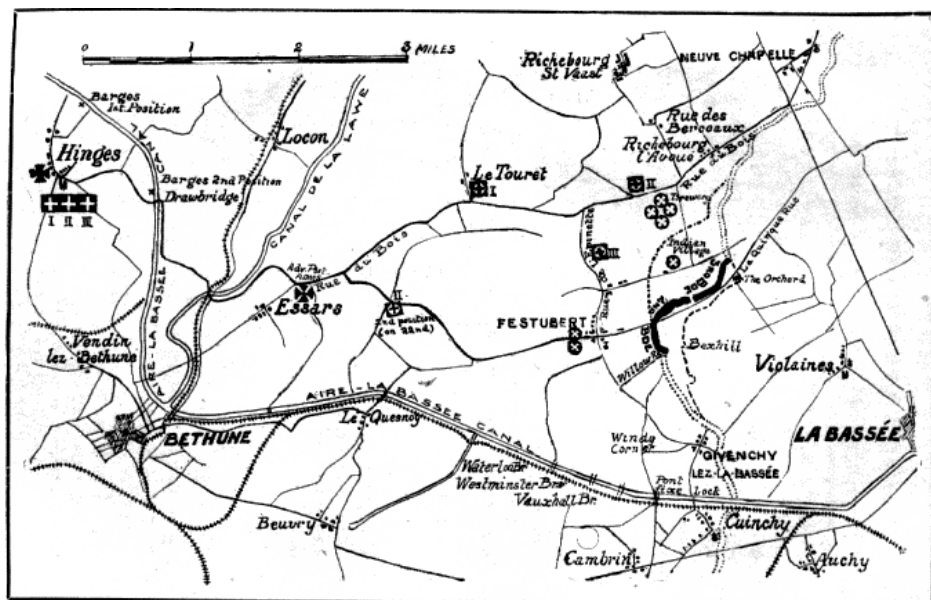
News has reached Lady Fitzwygram, that her son, Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., 2nd Scots Guards, who is a prisoner in Germany, is in hospital with a compound fracture of the right arm just below the shoulder. Sir Frederick adds in his letter – “I am comfortable and well looked after. The doctor thinks it will be healed in three- month’s-time, but it may be permanently stiff.”

The Scotsman, 3 July 1915

As we can see from the previous article Sir Frederick kept his mother, Lady Fitzwygram, well informed of his condition as a prisoner of war, with letters sent from Germany. It appears that he also wrote to his regiment and also to his former college at Oxford as this article from the publication: *Oxford in the Great War* by Malcolm Graham shows:

A few of the individuals and families devastated by news of the loss of loved ones later established that they were prisoners of war. In July 1915, the mother of Freddie Fitzwygram wrote to Herbert Warren, the President of Magdalen College: “I cannot express how thankful we feel he has been spared”. Freddie for his part, wrote to Warren from prison hospital in Dusseldorf : We get all the official communiques here, so we have a fair idea of the general situation, but it is rather strange seeing the war through German spectacles; but contrast is certainly remarkable”.

Oxford in the Great War, Malcolm Graham, 2014



Map of the Festubert area, 1915

In another letter written to his mother in November 1915 he reports that he had left the hospital and was now confined in the Officers' Internment Quarters at Crefeld, near Dusseldorf, whether this is where he stayed until his move to Holland in April 1918 is unclear:

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram

Recent letters from Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., who was taken prisoner during the battle of Festubert, contain the information that the young baronet has left hospital at Dusseldorf and is confined in the Officers' Internment Quarters at Crefeld, near Dusseldorf. He is reported to be very comfortable in his new surroundings, and is privileged to share a small room with a brother officer, though in some cases there are as many as twelve and fourteen officers crowded into one room. Sir Frederick writes hopefully of returning "in time for hunting". His injury has mended rapidly, except for the discomfort of a certain amount of stiffness. Miss Fitzwygram, it is interesting to add is rendering invaluable work at the Langstone Military Hospital as a nurse.

Portsmouth Evening News, 12 November 1915

With regards to the Battle of Festubert, on 19 May the 2nd Division and 7th Division had to be withdrawn due to heavy losses. On 18 May, the 1st Canadian Division, assisted by the 51st (Highland) Division, attacked but made little progress in the face of German artillery fire. The British forces dug in at the new front line in heavy rain. The Germans brought up reinforcements and reinforced their defences. From 20–25 May the attack was resumed and Festubert was captured. The offensive had resulted in a 3-kilometre (1.9 mi) advance. More than 16,000 casualties were sustained in the attack at Festubert, in support of the much larger French offensive to the South at Vimy Ridge. French losses there were over 102,000, against German losses of almost 50,000, including those at Festubert. The 7th Division alone lost 4,123 men and 167 officers at Festubert.

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and Cricket

Another passion of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, apart from beagling, was cricket, a sport Sir Frederick played whenever he could. Being a summer sport this did not interfere with his hunting pastime. Sir Frederick first played cricket at Eton, but one wonders if his passion for the game first grew at Leigh Park as a child, maybe watching, or even playing, on the cricket pitch at Front Lawn at Leigh Park. He probably also played while at Magdalen College, Oxford, but it appears that he played quite regular after leaving university and joining the Scots Guards Regiment. Some records of his playing career still survive, the earliest from August 1907 when he opened the batting for Havant, scoring 3 runs in a total of 87 runs and he took two wickets in the innings of the visitors Orleans who won by 32 runs at Havant Park. In August 1912 his own eleven played at Leigh Park against Emsworth House:

Leigh Park Cricket Match

A very interesting cricket match, though interrupted with by the rain was played at Leigh Park on Friday afternoon between Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's eleven and Emsworth House. The home team batted first and scored 96 for eight and declared. Captain Noble, 21, Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, 18 not out, and C.G. Blake, 17, were the chief scorers. The visitors made 66 for seven wickets when stumps were drawn. The teams were entertained to tea by Lady and Miss Fitzwygram.

Portsmouth Evening News, 12 August 1912

Sir Frederick played to a good standard and he is recognised as a quite good bowler and average batsmen, usually batting at number ten or eleven. He played at Lords for the first time on 9-10 August 1912 for Egypt and Sudan against the M.C.C. (Marylebone Cricket Club) where he took four wickets in a drawn game. In total Sir Frederick played at the home of cricket at Lords at least four times but his first appearance is worth recording:

M.C.C. – First Innings

J.E. Raphael..... c & b McLaren	28
W. Mead.....b McLaren	35
A. Worsley..... c Goodwyn b Fitzwygram	4
R.N. Blaker..... c Buxton b Udal	96
S.R. Beresford..... c & b McLaren	16
E.E. Barnet..... c. Munro b Fitzwygram	20
G. Brown..... c. Rattigan b McLaren	6
F.W. Holton..... c McLaren b Fitzwygram	4
A. Hearne..... c Buxton b Fitzwygram	38
R.S. Swann-Mason.. not out	13
W.H. Lee..... B McLaren	0
Extras (20 b. 5 lb 1w)	26
Total	286

Bowling included: Udal: 1-37, Fitzwygram 4-92, McLaren 5-96

Egypt and Sudan – First Innings

E.H. Goschen..... b Swann-Mason	47
W.M. Goodwyn..... b Mead	23
R.V. Buxton..... c & b Mead	0
R.S. Leathen..... lbw Raphael	21
F. Rattigan..... c Lee b Mead	32
G. McLaren..... c Brown b Mead	31
R. Udal..... b Mead	6
A. Solly-Flood..... c Brown b Hearne	0
R.G. McLaren..... b Hearne	24
P. Munro..... Not out	10
F.L. Fitzwygram..... b Hearne	10
Extras (16 b)	16
Total	210

Bowling Included: Mead 5-79, Raphael 1-32, Swann-Mason 1-12, Hearne 3-24

M.C.C. 2nd Innings

J.E Raphael..... c Goschen b McLaren	18
W. Mead..... Not out	17
G. Brown..... Not out	7
R.S. Swann-Mason.. Run out	1
Rest did not bat	
Extras (4 b 1 lb)	5
Total (3 wickets)	51

Bowling:

G. McLaren 1-20, Fitzwygram 0-26

Egypt and Sudan 2nd Innings

Did Not Bat

Match Drawn

The period between 1912 and the start of the First World War appear to have been a time when Sir Frederick played quite a lot of cricket when military duties allowed. He played cricket for the Household Brigade as well as for other clubs during the period leading up to the Great War. Clubs Sir Frederick played for included the Butterflies, whose members must have been educated at Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, Westminster, and Winchester. The club which was founded in 1862 is still playing about 30 matches a year. In 1883 the England test team which returned from Australia with the ashes contained six Butterflies.

Sir Frederick, as we have previously seen, also played at Leigh Park, captaining his own eleven, as the article below records, losing one match to Havant Cricket Club by one run in August 1913:

Leigh Park Cricket

The Havant Cricket Club visited Leigh Park on Monday to play Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's XI, and a closely contested game ended in a win for the visitors by the barrow margin of one run, the scores being Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's XI 96, Havant 97.

Portsmouth Evening News, 27 August 1913

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's first class cricket career: 1912-1914

- 9 August 1912 – M.C.C. v Egypt and the Sudan, Lords Cricket Ground
- 12 May 1914 – Household Brigade v M.C.C., Burton Court, Chelsea
- 14 June 1914 – Eton College v The Butterflies, Agar Ground, Eton College
- 21 May 1914 – Household Brigade v I Zingari, Burton's Court, Chelsea
- 23 May 1914 – Household Brigade v M.C.C., Burton's Court, Chelsea
- 25 May 1914 – Household Brigade v The Butterflies, Burton's Court, Chelsea
- 22 June 1914 – Household Brigade v Band of Brothers, Burton's Court, Chelsea
- 29 June 1914 – Household Brigade v Green Jackets, Burton's Court, Chelsea

After the end of the First World War and his repatriation back to England after his enforced period of being a prisoner of war Sir Frederick, until his death in May 1920, resumed his passion for cricket, playing again for the Household Brigade. He also played for the I Zingari Cricket Club, one of the oldest clubs still in existence, being formed in 1842. It was a privilege to play for the club and most of their matches were deemed as first class standard. Perhaps one match that Sir Frederick played in is far more historical, and that took place on 4 June 1918 between prisoners of war in Holland. It was recorded by the *Eton College Chronicle*:

As it was not though advisable, owing to the prevailing circumstances, to have an Eton Dinner on the Fourth of June, a cricket match was arranged instead, and played on the sports ground at the Tontoontellings Terrain, Scheveningen. The two teams and a large proportion of the Old Etonians now in Holland were entertained at tea in the Hexham Abbey Hut by Mr S.M. Burrows, and the toast of 'Floet Etona' was duly honoured in that unconvincing liquid. The loyal good wishes of all present were duly cabled to the Head Master."

Eton College Chronicle, 4 July 1918

The team Sir Frederick played for lost by 34 runs and Sir Frederick scored 12 runs but did not bowl, perhaps his injured arm would not allow him to do so.

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's first class cricket career: 1919-1920

24 May 1919 – Harrow School v Household Brigade, Harrow School Ground
28 May 1919 – Westminster School v Household Brigade, Vincent Square, Westminster
29 May 1919 – Free Foresters v Household Brigade, Oval, Kennington
10 June 1919 – Harrow School v I Zingari, Harrow School Ground
11 June 1919 – Hon. Artillery Company v Household Brigade, Lords Cricket Ground
12 June 1919 – C.L.S. Tudor's XI v Royal Army Service Corps, Lords Cricket Ground
13 June 1919 – Eton Ramblers v Household Brigade, Lords Cricket Ground
23 June 1919 – Household Brigade v Royal Fusileers, Oval, Kennington
24 June 1919 – Harrow v Household Brigade, Harrow School Ground
26 July 1919 – Hon. Artillery Company v Household Brigade, Oval, Kennington

No further accounts of Sir Frederick's cricket career can be found after the 26 July 1919 but it is clear that after he returned to England he played some games for Havant Cricket Club of whom he was the president.

Leigh Park 1914-1920 and the Death of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram

The year 1914 started the same as any other year at Leigh Park, the war clouds were simmering in the background, but the life at the Leigh Park Estate went on as before. No doubt beagling went on through the new year period, with Sir Frederick hunting whenever possible. Into the spring months the gardens and park were once again thrown open to various charities and events. The new year started in cold conditions and in late January 1914:

Several ponds in the vicinity of Emsworth had ice some inches in thickness, whilst the Hermitage was partially frozen over. The large pond at Leigh Park, Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's estate, was frozen quite hard enough for skating, and was thrown open to the public by the kind permission of Sir Frederick. All the horse drinking troughs in the district were covered with ice in varying thickness.

Portsmouth Evening News, 24 January 1914

At the monthly meeting of the Havant Urban District Council, held at the Town Hall, Havant, on 23 February 1914 a letter was read out about the state of Stockheath Common, of which Sir Frederick had the grazing rights:

A letter was read from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries re allotments under the Havant Thicket Enclosure Award for 1870, dealing with the state of Stockheath Common, over which Sir Frederick Fitzwygram had the grazing rights. – It was decided to write to Sir Frederick, asking him if something could be done in the matter, as if the Common were made suitable for cricket and other games, it would effectually obviate all trouble in connection with the Stockheath Cricket Club.

Portsmouth Evening News, 24 February 1914

Sir Frederick replied to the letter sent by the council, which one could say, that as a benefactor in the district and as a keen cricketer seemed a little unkind:

Sir F. Fitzwygram Declines

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram wrote stating that he was under no obligation to put Stockheath Common in a fit condition for cricket, as requested by the Council. This was with reference to the Havant Thicket Enclosure Award of 1870, and he added that if the Council wanted the ground made more suitable for cricket it must be by arrangement with him and other people concerned. – The letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

Portsmouth Evening News, 31 March 1914

Up until the time war was declared on Germany on 4 August 1914 Leigh Park carried on as before with the park and gardens opening as usual. After the war was declared things became a little different – though the Leigh Park Estate played no direct role in the war, such as opening as a hospital or being used for other purposes, in some small way it still played its part.

It is not known how many of the estate workers, or even tenants, signed up to serve their country. As in many other estates the workforce was reduced with younger men serving in the forces and many estates were left to be run by an older or even a limited workforce. With the war under way other restrictions were in place – many large estates had to give up, for example, some of their horses, which were needed on the Front. The overall effect was that changes were being made and in some cases larger estates never fully recovered due to the effect of the war. Manpower was never the same again after the war, some men who survived the fighting chose not to return to their pre-war occupations and others like Leigh Park and nearby Stakes Hill Lodge, Waterlooville had lost the head and future of the estate.

Two examples of how the the declaration of war effected Leigh Park was from two notices in the *Portsmouth Evening News*:

Leigh Park, Havant

Primrose League – The fête that was to have been held on August 12th is in consequence of the present crisis, indefinitely postponed. The voice of party politics must now be silent.

Portsmouth Evening News, 5 August 1914

The other notice was from the *Portsmouth Evening News* a day later:

Notice

Owing to the Serious Aspect of Affairs Lady Fitzwygram's Garden Party on August 8th will not take place.

Portsmouth Evening News, 6 August 1914

Lady Fitzwygram, obviously worried about the welfare of her son, Sir Frederick, who was a prisoner of war of the Germans, got involved locally raising money for good causes towards the war effort. In October 1914 she became president of the committee of a War Hospital Supply Depot at Emsworth and also became president of the Havant and District Red Cross Society of which many times opened up the grounds for fund raising. One such event was for 'France's Day' when funds were raised for the French Red Cross:

France's Day

France Day was successfully observed in Emsworth and District yesterday. A collection of the Funds for the French Red Cross was organised by Dr Lochart Stephens and a number of workers sold tricolour flags and emblems in the district. A sum of £12 2s 2d. was realised.

In the evening the beautiful grounds of Leigh Park were thrown open to the public by Lady Fitzwygram and an added attraction was an exhibition of war trophies taken from the Germans, which was organised by Miss Munday and Admiral O'Callaghan. The boisterous weather undoubtedly kept many away, but the charge made for admission resulted in the sum of £4 5s. being added to the fund for the benefit of our Ally.

Portsmouth Evening News, 8 July 1915

A few days previous to this event a rather sad and callous event took place at Leigh Park on 6 July 1915 when Leigh Park House was burgled and ransacked. This despicable event was recorded in all of the press throughout the country with various headlines including: 'Prisoner of War's Home Ransacked' and other likewise headlines. The local newspaper, the Portsmouth Evening News reported the burglary as follows:

Leigh Park Burglary

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's Valuables – Supposed Removal in a Motor Car

A daring and extensive robbery was committed on Tuesday night at Leigh Park, Havant, the seat of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., who is now a prisoner of war in Germany.

At 10.30 p.m. the doors and windows on the ground floor were securely fastened by the servants, but at 6.30 in the morning it was discovered that an entrance had been effected by someone by forcing the windows at the west end of the house. Various rooms had been ransacked, and a large quantity of valuables, antique jewellery, miniatures, and plate was missing. The thief or thieves had evidently made elaborate preparations to carry out the robbery thoroughly, as the doors leading to the servants quarters had been locked from the outside. The discovery was immediately reported to the police by Lady Fitzwygram, and Supt. Carman, of Fareham, and other officers visited Leigh Park and made extensive investigations. It is thought that the robbery was probably perpetuated by a gang who made good their escape in a motor-car.

Portsmouth Evening News, 7 July 1915

The crime was never solved and as far as we are aware none of the stolen goods were ever returned to the family. One wonders why nobody heard any noise and the other thought is that was it connected to anyone who had previously been a visitor to Leigh Park. It must have been quite a shattering blow to Lady Fitzwygram and Angela Fitzwygram, especially with Sir Frederick a prisoner in Germany.

As the war went on Lady Fitzwygram was generous in opening the grounds for various groups, such as in the photograph above when the Portsmouth Naval Barracks orphans visited the park on 27 July 1915. Another example of this is from September 1916 when Lady Fitzwygram received wounded sailors at Leigh Park and personally showed them round the grounds:

By the kindness of Mr G. Martin and a few friends, a party of fifty wounded bluejackets from Haslar were, on Wednesday afternoon, given a pleasant trip into the country, proceeding by motor charabanc to Fareham, Wickham, Hambledon, and Leigh Park, and halting at the last named place, where Lady Fitzwygram personally received the party and showed them round the grounds. Tea was served at the "Staunton Arms" before the return trip was made.

Portsmouth Evening News, 21 September 1916



Naval Barracks Orphans Outing to Leigh Park, 27 July 1915



Wounded Sailors on a Charabanc trip to Leigh Park, September 1916, stopping for tea at the Staunton Arms, Rowlands Castle

We have seen, as the above shows, how Lady Fitzwygram was only too pleased to open the grounds at Leigh Park for wounded men and fund raising events. She also got involved in highlighting war work for women as well as presiding over the Hampshire Soldiers' and Sailors Families Association. One can only guess how helpful she was to the wives of the estate whose husbands were fighting abroad. Her daughter, Angela Fitzwygram, became a nurse at the Langstone Towers Military Hospital for the duration of the war and Lady Fitzwygram never missed a chance to help with the war effort:

War Work for Women - Scheme Explained at Havant

A meeting under the auspices of the Hants County Committee for War Work amongst women was held in the Church Institute, North Street, Havant, on Wednesday afternoon. Lay Fitzwygram presiding. There was a good gathering, representatives being present from Farlington, Hayling, Bedhampton, Redhill etc., amongst whom were Lady Wills, Admiral O'Callaghan, Colonel F. Stubbington, Col. and Mrs Tanqueray, Mr and Mrs Orred, and others.

Lady Fitzwygram said the purpose of the meeting was to explain the working of Lord Selborne's scheme. The County Committee was formed of representatives of each division, and as she had been asked to represent this division she hoped to get representatives from each parish to assist her.

Portsmouth Evening News, 16 March, 1916

On 11 November 1918 peace finally came as the Great War came to an end, but it was not until 26 December 1918 that Captain Sir Frederick Fitzwygram was repatriated and returned to England.

On 22 January 1920 Sir Frederick was promoted to Major in the Scots Guards and finally awarded his Military Cross for his gallant efforts in the war. Reports stated that after his return he resumed his military career, and when not on duty, he resumed his love of hunting with his beagle pack, as well as playing cricket for both the Household Brigade and locally for Havant.

In early May 1920 news broke that Sir Frederick was dangerously ill, the first report being published in the press on Monday 3 May 1920 when the *Portsmouth Evening News* ran the headline:

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram Dangerously Ill

Prayers were offered at St Faith's yesterday morning for the recovery of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., news of whose dangerous illness has been everywhere received with great regret.

News quickly spread through many of the nation's newspapers that Sir Frederick was very ill. It is unclear when he first came down with the illness that finally killed him, but newspaper reports suggest that it had been about three weeks duration. His death certificate records him dying from blood poisoning following influenza. Whether the influenza was linked with the epidemic that hit in Spring 1918 and went on through to the end of 1920 is unclear. The epidemic caused by influenza viruses led to between 50 and 100 million deaths between 1918 and 1920 (as much as 1 of every 18 people). Because neutral Spain was not censoring news it became associated with Spain but its origins are more likely to be the USA or France. It came in three waves (Spring 1918, Autumn 1918, and Winter 1919) and the second wave was unusually deadly. And unlike typical flu pandemics it disproportionately killed young healthy adults. Many researchers have suggested that the conditions of the

war significantly aided the spread of the disease. And others have argued that the course of the war (and subsequent peace treaty) was influenced by the pandemic.



With the South Oxfordshire Foxhounds at Thame: Sir Frederick Fitzwygram
Our photograph was taken on a wet day and shows Sir Frederick Fitzwygram (right) and Mr Haggie (left). Sir Frederick is the fifth Baronet, and a Captain in the Scots Guards. Photograph S and G. *The Sketch*, 26 November 1919

Sir Frederick died on the night of 5 May 1920 at Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London, at the age of 35. It was great tragedy for the Fitzwygram family, and the end of Sir Frederick's family line. Family reports stated that Sir Frederick died from blood poisoning caused by an accidental cut while hedging but this cannot be substantiated. It may well have been linked to the influenza virus. But more interestingly his memorial in St Faith's church, Havant, records: 'Died from the effects of the Great War'.

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. His Death in London - Officer and Sportsman

Everybody associated with Leigh Park, Havant, is today mourning the loss of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., whose death took place at the Alexandra Hospital,

London, on Wednesday night, and was recorded in yesterday's "Evening News". It is a loss which will be felt in many respects throughout this part of Hampshire, and genuine sympathy will be extended by all classes to Lady and Miss Fitzwygram, the mother and sister of the deceased. It had been locally known for just over a week that Sir Frederick was seriously ill, and prayers were offered for his recovery at St Faith's Church, Havant, on Sunday. We understand his illness had been of about three weeks' duration, and originated with an attack of influenza, but other complications ensued, and the end came about as a result of blood-poisoning.

The deceased gentleman was the only son of the late General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., formerly M.P. for South Hants., whose name is still held in appreciative memory for his useful public life, although it came 16 years since he died. Sir Frederick took up a military career, taking a commission in the Scots Guards in early days. It is only two or three months ago that he was gazetted to his majority and awarded the M.C. for his services during the war. He went to the Front with his regiment in 1914, and was wounded in the early fighting. After recovering from his injury, he again went to the Front, and was taken prisoner by the Germans at Festubert in 1915. He was in Germany for some time, and on an exchange of prisoners taking place, went into internment in Holland, where he remained until after the Armistice.

On his return home in the early days of last year Sir Frederick resumed his interests in life. He was keen respecting his military duties, and although he took little part in public affairs, he was a great supporter and devotee of sport. For years the Leigh Park Beagles have provided famous sport in this part of Hampshire, and Sir Frederick has spent many happy days with his pack during the past winter, the season having been a successful one. At cricket he was clever both with bat and ball, and fulfilled many cricket engagements last season. Not only was he President of the Havant Cricket Club, but he found time to play in many matches for the club last year, his skill contributing much to what proved to be a season of successive victories. Since he inherited Leigh Park, Sir Frederick had continued an established custom of allowing the use of the park for various purposes, particularly for children's outings, and the revival of many of these last year saw the park crowded with happy parties on many of the weekly holidays.

The deceased gentleman was a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Havant Bench.

The funeral will take place at 3.15 p.m. on Monday at Havant Church from Leigh Park. A train will leave Waterloo at 11.20 a.m. for Havant.

Sir Frederick Loftus Francis Fitwygram, fifth baronet, was born on August 11 1884, only son of the fourth baronet, and Angela, daughter of Thomas Nugent Vaughan and Viscountess Forbes, and succeeded his father in 1904. He was educated at Eton, and took the degree of M.A. at Magdalen College, Oxford. He was unmarried, and will be succeeded by his cousin, Henry Hampden Wigram (late Major, Scots Guards), who married Dorothy Isabel Liddell, of Keldy Castle, Yorkshire, and has three daughters.

Portsmouth Evening News, 7 May 1920



The coffin of Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram leaving Leigh Park House for the funeral at St John's Church, Redhill, Rowlands Castle, 15 May 1920

Sir Frederick was buried on the 15 May 1920 at St John's Churchyard, Redhill, next to his father in the family vault. As the above photograph shows his was a military funeral as he was still a serving officer in the Scots Guards. Members of the regiment can be seen carrying the coffin out of Leigh Park House with other members of the regiment lining up in front of the entrance to the house. The funeral took on the same appearance as of the funeral of Lt. General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram in 1904, with employees, tenants, and other dignitaries following the coffin, which was carried on

a gun carriage, from Leigh Park as it made its way through the park to the church at Redhill:

Funeral of Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bt., M.C.

The funeral of Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bt., M.C., 2nd Scots Guards, who died in London last week, took place yesterday afternoon in the churchyard of Redhill, Havant. There was a large gathering, which included representatives of all classes in the surrounding district.

The body had been brought on Saturday from London to Leigh Park. Yesterday it was borne to Redhill Church on a gun carriage. Behind the coffin walked Colonel Tempest, C.M.G, D.S.O., Major Edwards, D.S.O., M.C., Captain Boyd, M.C., and other brother officers. The family mourners were lady and Miss Fitzwygram (mother and sister), Miss Paget (aunt), Major Guy Paget, Mrs Close, Miss Paget, and Miss Rosalind Paget (cousins), the Earl of Granard, and Mr Edgar Wigram, who succeeds to the title. Colonel Cator, D.S.O., C.M.G., Commanding the Scots Guards, with Colonel Bolton and Major Sir Victor Mackenzie, were also present.

The officiating clergy were the Revs. H.N. Rogers, rector of Havant, E.J. Nelson, rector of Blendworth, and E.G. Selwyn, rector of Redhill. The choir of the church, augmented by members of the Havant choir, led the singing of the hymns and of the Psalm, and the committed portion of the service was followed by the singing of Nunc Dimittis. Sergeants of the late baronet's company of the Scots Guards acted as bearers, and the battalion furnished a firing party and the local Boy Scouts a guard of honour.

As he was unmarried Sir Frederick was succeed in the baronetcy by his cousin, Edgar Thomas Ainger Wigram, who became the sixth baronet. Sir Edgar, the son of Rev. Woolmore Wigram, was a descendant of the first baronet through his fifth son, Money Wigram. The change of title in the baronetcy did not affect the Leigh Park Estate and Lady Fitzwygram and her daughter Angela continued to live on at Leigh Park for many more years.



Leigh Park House, circa 1920

In the many obituaries written after his death Sir Frederick was described as a kind hearted and thoughtful man and “the simple warmth of his nature endured him all his friends”. Sir Clifford Woolmore Wigram, the 7th baronet, writing some years later said of him:

“From what little I have been told about him, he was a man with a considerate and thoughtful nature, as well as having great ability and mental power. Two examples may be cited. When war broke out in 1914, my uncle William Ainger Wigram told me that Sir Frederick not only made over to the Bishop of Southwick the patronage of some livings in his gift, and also made up the endowment capital, because he said that everything was bound to cost more after the war. He also did his best to ensure that, if he died without a direct heir, whoever succeeded to the title should have an adequate income, and that if a child, his education should be of the best – if possible at Winchester College; his wishes, I am proud to say, were carried out.”

Obviously dying so young Sir Frederick did not leave such a mark on the local neighbourhood as his father did. He sat as a magistrate on the Havant Bench like his father before him and patronised many local groups and clubs in the area. Because of his love of sport he became president of the Rowlands Castle Football Club, as well as Havant Cricket Club, and other sporting societies. It is also believed that one day Sir Frederick, no doubt, would have followed his father into a political career. He, like

his father, was a supporter of the conservative cause and supported the Primrose League, who held yearly fêtes and rallies at Leigh Park. One wonders how the estate at Leigh Park would have looked if Sir Frederick had lived longer and even later married and passed the estate onto his children.

In his will, proved 11 November 1920, Sir Frederick left £257,989 4s. 2d, the main beneficiaries being his mother and sister:

Late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram – Will and Bequests

Major Sir Frederick Loftus Francis Fitzwygram, Fifth Bart., M.C. (Scots Guards), of Leigh Park, Havant, J.P. for the county, a prominent member of the Household Brigade cricket team, a successful breeder of hounds, and owner and huntsman of the Leigh Park Beagles, who saw service during the recent war and spent some time in captivity in Germany, and who died on May 5th last, aged 35 years, left estate of £257,989 4s 2d., with net personally of £86,082 2s. 4d. Probate of his will, dated August 13th 1914, has been granted to his mother, Dame Angela Francis Mary Ada Louisa Fitzwygram, his sister, Miss Angela Catherine Alice Fitzwygram, and his cousin, Major Thomas Guy Frederick Paget, of Sulby Hall, Rugby, Northants.

The testator left £25,000, his personal effects and consumable stores, to his sister, Angela; £100 to Major Paget as executor; £50 each to N. Broad, A. Herbert, F. Earney, W. Fowles, and F. Theobald, if respectively still in his service, or that of his mother, and not under notice.

All his other property he left upon trust for his said sister for life, with remainder to his mother for her life; and further remainder to the eldest of other sons of his said sister and their heirs entail, whom failing with other remainders, whom failing, to follow the Baronetcy.

Portsmouth Evening News, 15 November 1914

It was obviously a sad time at Leigh Park after the death of Sir Frederick but both Lady and Angela Fitzwygram took the time to place a notice in the local press thanking people for their kindness and sympathy after their sad loss: “Lady and Miss Fitzwygram wish to express their grateful thanks for the many kind letters of sympathy they have received in their recent bereavement..”

Leigh Park 1920-1939

With no male head of the family and Sir Frederick being the last of the Fitzwygram line of the family, and with no direct heir, things were never going to be the same at Leigh Park. The next two decades, especially the 1930s, would see major changes to the estate which would gradually see the start of the decline and finally the end of the estate as a private residence. As regarding the running of the estate it would appear that the same routine was carried on as regards patronage and the opening of the grounds for various functions, as we can see from this visit of 800 children from Portsea in August 1920:

Portsea Children's Outing – Visit to Leigh Park

Leigh Park, Havant, was invaded on Wednesday by 800 children from Portsea, to say nothing of a large number of adults who went over to have a share in the little one's holiday. Last year the traders on the north side of Queen-street, Portsea, organised a most successful day's outing for the children resident on that side, as a holiday in honour of peace. On that occasion some 500 children were taken to Leigh Park.

The promoters determined to make the event an annual one, and this year invitations were extended to all the children between six and thirteen, with the result that the party was much larger. The day was fortunately fine, and at midday 17 brake loads of happy youngsters left Bonfire-corner for the drive to the Park, the use of which had again been kindly granted by Lady Fitzwygram.

Sports were in progress at the Park throughout the afternoon, and there was a monster tea party, while scrambling for sweets and pennies were not the least popular diversions of the occasion.

Portsmouth Evening News, 26 August 1920

After Sir Frederick's death, his sister Angela, took on a more hands on role in the running of the estate, as she was effectively the new owner due to the terms of Sir Frederick's will. In September 1920 Angela Fitzwygram consented to provide additional land for allotments, which are to be let direct by the estate, giving preference to the demand among ex-Service men. It is believed that extra land was given over on Petersfield Road, behind Leigh Cottages.



Leigh Park House, circa 1920, overlooking the Lake and Chinese Bridge



Staunton Arms and crossroads, Redhill, early 20th century. Note the ornamented entrance at North Lodge.

On 24 September 1922 a memorial window was dedicated to Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram at St. Faith's Church, Havant. An earlier window in the church was dedicated to his father, both windows still remain in situ in the church:

Late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram Memorial Window Dedicated at Havant

A memorial window to the late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram was dedicated at the morning service at St Faith's Church, Havant, on Sunday. It takes the place of the "Faith, Hope, and Charity" windows in the south transept. The figure of St Michael is in the centre, St George is on the left, and St Hulbert is in the right. Under the figure of St George is the regimental crest of the Scouts, and under the figure of St Hulbert, the Fitzwygram arms, whilst under that of St Michael is the following inscription:

"In loving memory of Sir Frederick L.F. Fitzwygram, Bt., M.C., Major Scots Guards. Died from the effects of the Great War, 5th May 1920, aged 35 years. He being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time."



Window in the south transept of St Faith's Church, Havant, dedicated to Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram

The church was filled, and the service was of a very impressive character. After the usual morning prayers, the first three verses of the hymn, "How bright these Glorious spirits shine", were sung, and the Rector, the Rev. Harold N. Rogers, M.A., then drew aside the curtain covering the window, and with suitable prayers performed the dedication ceremony. The concluding verses of the hymn were then sung, the congregation having remained standing during the dedication.

In an earnest sermon, the Rector of Blendworth, the Rev. E.J. Nelson, dealt with the three qualities that constituted sportsmanship – keenness, courtesy, and chivalry. That morning, in the course of the service, they had dedicated a tribute to one known to hundreds of them. If they asked the men who lived and played with Sir Frederick, what they valued him by, the reply would be that he was a sportsman, and having said that, they would have said enough. Sometimes people use the word "sportsman" to apply to a young fellow who aped the views of elder men, but it expressed something well worth possessing – the qualities of keenness, courtesy, and chivalry. The true sportsman was always keen to win whatever test he attempted, and carried out his tasks with great seriousness. In the Great War there were many examples of courtesy and also chivalry, the latter being a reverence for weakness, but a reverence that never degenerated into patronage. Our Lord was sportsman in the true sense of the word. The man to whom the memorial had been erected was one of these happy warriors.

Portsmouth Evening News, 25 September 1922

A fitting tribute to one who gave his all to his king and country and paid the ultimate sacrifice. The window at St Faith's church was not the only memorial to Sir Frederick. His name was added to the Havant War Memorial, standing just outside of St. Faith's church. His name was added to the war memorial because he was still a serving officer at the time of his death and he qualified because of this. He is also commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission data base.

During the 1920s and the 1930s Leigh Park was opened to be used for various fêtes and other good causes it does appear that it was not used so much. It has to be said that Lady Fitzwygram was getting elderly, by 1926 she was 81 years old, and on 17 April 1926, the estate was signed over entirely to Angela, her daughter. Under a vesting deed signed by the Executors and Trustees of Sir Frederick's will Angela was declared a Tenant for Life, in other words she took on total control of the estate. Inevitably, the estate would never be same again but we do get two different

descriptions of what life was like at the time of Sir Frederick's death and the years afterwards. The first is from an undated newspaper article from around 1970, with an interview by Mrs Alice Bilkey, who's late husband formerly worked as a chauffeur for Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. Mrs Bilkey had previously worked in some capacity in the house itself:

Memories of Leigh Park

I was able to turn back the clock many years when I heard Mrs A.M. Bilkey reminiscing about old Leigh Park recently. Mrs Bilkey has lived in the cottage in Leigh Park House Grounds for over 50 years, and is the widow of the chauffeur to Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, who died in 1920.

The original house was demolished in 1864, and the late Leigh Park House was pulled down in 1959 after Portsmouth Corporation had taken over the estate. I turned off Petersfield Road through a small gate and found my way along a path through the trees and large shrubs to the cottage.

Mrs Bilkey welcomed me into her home, and we were soon delving into the past together. On one side of the main room is an oil painting of Leigh Park House, and on the other side two prints which use to hang there. Mrs Bilkey showed me several photographs showing how the estate used to look and told me of many happenings while her husband was chauffeur there.

She told me that Leigh Park House had 40 rooms and she used to relieve the butler on his days off and help out in the house. Huge chandeliers hung from the ceilings, and smaller ones adorned the walls.

There were 12 small holdings around the estate, and there was a large staff of workmen. There were carters, blacksmiths, painters, plumbers, builders, forestry and farm workers to name just a few. There was also a large number of servants employed within the House, and electric light was provided by its own generator. Water was pumped up from the Thicket nearby.

Landaus and horses and carriages were kept in the stables near the cottage. Mrs Bilkey has many happy memories of the big House, and was very distressed when it had to come down. She recalled how the men were upset themselves at having to destroy such a wonderful old building and they commented upon how well it had been built.

William Bilkey had married Alice Wilson at Havant 1915 and both worked from around that date on the Leigh Park Estate for the Fitzwygram family. Mr Bilkey died 1947 and Mrs Bilkey in 1975. The cottage Mrs Bilkey was living in at the time of her death was the former Gamekeepers Cottage and it still remains on the estate, being built by Sir George Staunton in 1828 to replace an earlier cottage. In later life she was the Vice-President of the Leigh Park Gardeners Association. The author remembers Mrs Bilkey as a boy when she used to hand out the prizes at the Leigh Park Flower Shows in the 1960s. She was little lady always dressed in black.

The second account of Leigh Park is from Sir Clifford Wigram, the seventh baronet, who visited Leigh Park as a small boy and later as a young man between 1920 and 1935:

Leigh Park

It may be of some interest to record my impressions of it in the 1920-35 period. I believe there were 35 bedrooms and only 1 bathroom. I remember the vast hall. Rather like a natural history museum, with cases of stuffed birds arranged around it. On the walls were two enormous paintings of the 4th Baronet and his wife, by B. Hudson. They are now owned by Sir Rearsby Sitwell at Renishaw Hall. In the passages were fire-screens made of dead swans and peacocks; as a child these always intrigued me. I don't remember it as a cheerful or friendly house, and my main impressions was of red plush curtains and yellow oak furniture, supplied I believe by Maples. I stayed there several times as a small boy, although my cousin Angela did her best to make me feel at ease, frankly I was always in awe of old Lady Fitzwygram, who sat in a room surrounded by relics of her son. The visit I enjoyed most was in December 1931 when my brother and I drove down in an aged bullnose Morris during the Christmas vacation from Cambridge. My last visit was for Lady Fitzwygram's funeral when after the service in Havant parish church the cortege drove through the grounds and past the house to the grave in Rowlands Castle Church.

The local newspapers, especially the *Portsmouth Evening News*, had always carried reports on the various events and happenings at Leigh Park, but as the 1920s went on they became few and far between. The following two are among those when the park was opened for good causes. The first on August Bank Holiday must have been an event close to the heart for Lady and Angela Fitzwygram with the first fête being held for the newly formed Havant British Legion:

***** BRITISH LEGION. *****		***** HAVANT BRANCH. *****
SOUVENIR OF First Annual Carnival Fête		
HELD AT LEIGH PARK,		
(By kind permission of Lady FitzWygram), ON AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY, AUGUST 4TH, 1924.		
PRICE THREEPENCE		No. 1430 For Particulars see Page 37.

Leigh Park – Legion Fête

Never before has a fête on so large a scale as that which is to take place at Leigh Park, under the auspices of the Havant branch of the British Legion, on Bank Holiday, been attempted in Havant. The newly formed branch has been ambitious in this their first annual project, and as a result of hard preparatory work a most attractive programme has been drawn up. Mr J.L.C. Walker (Hon. Secretary), and his energetic Committee, have been indefatigable in their enthusiasm, and have spared no pains to ensure success. The morning attractions include two road races for boys and men respectively, whilst the afternoon will be started with a carnival procession for prizes. There will be an opening ceremony by Lady Fitzwygram at 2.50, and the afternoon will be devoted to sideshows, all the fun of the fair, concerts by the popular "Nibs" party, an excellent programme of sports, and a baby show. Bands and concerts in the evening, dancing, and a haunted grotto will amuse, whilst many prizes can be won. The prizes for the sports are valuable, and the holder of the winning souvenir programme will also be entitled to a present.

Portsmouth Evening News, 2 August 1924

The second event at the park comes at the end of the decade, on 28 August 1929, when Angela Fitzwygram opened the grounds for a visit of over 100 children from Portsmouth. The following photographs, published in the *Portsmouth Evening News* on 27 August show the excited children assembling for their outing:

Children's Outing To Leigh Park

The second meeting arranged by the office staff of Messrs J.J. Young and Son, Ltd., took place yesterday afternoon, when over 100 children from the neighbourhood of the brewery spent an enjoyable time, in fine weather, at Leigh Park, Havant, which had been placed at their disposal by Miss Fitzwygram. Messrs. Handleys again lent their helter-skelter and see-saw and Mr Fotheringham, Steward at the Park, erected some swings, and these aids to enjoyment were only idle during tea, which meal was done ample justice to. After tea, races were run, and there was keen competition amongst the youngsters for the useful prizes. Shortly before leaving for home, hearty cheers were given for Miss Fitzwygram, the organisers, and all who had helped, including those who lent cars and sent gifts.

Portsmouth Evening News, 28 August 1929



Some of the children of Portsea and Landport mustering for an outing to Leigh Park yesterday. *Portsmouth Evening News*



A happy scene in Liss Terrace during the assembling of poor children for their drive into the country. *Portsmouth Evening News*

One pastime which carried on, weather permitting, was the skating on the lake. In the more severe winters permission was granted by Lady and Angela Fitzwygram for visitors to skate on the lake, as they had done in years gone by. The following record is from 7 December 1924 where it was described a “fine day’s sport amid delightful surroundings”:

Leigh Park Skating – Fine Day’s Sport Amid Delightful Surroundings

Full advantage was taken of the facilities for skating at Leigh Park, Havant, throughout the weekend. Despite a slight thaw, which set in yesterday morning, the ice remained safe and in good condition, and throughout the day there was a pilgrimage to the park from Havant, Emsworth, Rowlands Castle and the surrounding district, not a few Portsmouth people making the journey to seize the opportunity – so seldom available down South – of indulging in the most exhilarating winter pastime.

Many motor cars were drawn up at the entrances to Leigh Park, and dozens of bicycles were left in the grounds whilst their owners frequented the pond. There

were skaters picnics on the banks, and some people remained on the ice from morning until dark, while throughout the day parties were constantly coming and going.

So far as we can gather, there were no injuries or mishaps of note, indeed, looking on at the skating and sliding, it was remarkable how few spills there were, when one considers that opportunities for practice on ice are so few. A few hours of thaw will probably be sufficient to make the ice unsafe; and it is after a spell of skating that most accidents usually occur, so that the public must be thoughtful. The skaters at Leigh Park yesterday were grateful to Lady Fitzwygram for the privilege so readily accorded of using the grounds and pond, and it was also noticed with due appreciation that the danger spots on the ice were marked and that ladders and ropes had been thoughtfully provided in case of danger.

Portsmouth Evening News, 7 December 1924

The following year of 1925 three inches of snow fell at Leigh Park and again skating was permitted on the lake. This appears to have been the last year until 1929 when the lake was in a good enough condition for skaters to use, when in February of that year, a charge of 6d. was issued with the money going to local charities:

Skating at Leigh Park

Provide the weather conditions hold there will be public skating on the pond in Leigh Park Estate tomorrow. A fee of 6d. will be charged and the proceeds will be devoted to local charities. There are facilities for parking motor-vehicles on the estate.

Portsmouth Evening News, 13 February 1929

Leigh Park, Havant, is once againa popular and pitcturesque rendevous for skaters. February 1929. Portsmouth Evening News, 16 February 1929

Charging 6d. to visitors to skate on Leigh Park lake appears to have been a great success with £48 10s. raised for good causes in the area:



Leigh Park Skaters – Pay Out Nearly £50 for Local Charities

Miss Fitzwygram informs us that the amount collected from skaters at Leigh Park during the recent frost and earmarked for local charities was £48 10s which is being distributed as follows:- Emsworth Hospital, £12, Havant Hospital, £12, Soldiers and Sailors Families Association, £10, Portsmouth Hospital, £10, Portsmouth Eye and Ear Hospital, £2, Portsmouth Surgical Aid Society, £2. 10s.

Portsmouth Evening News, 25 February 1929

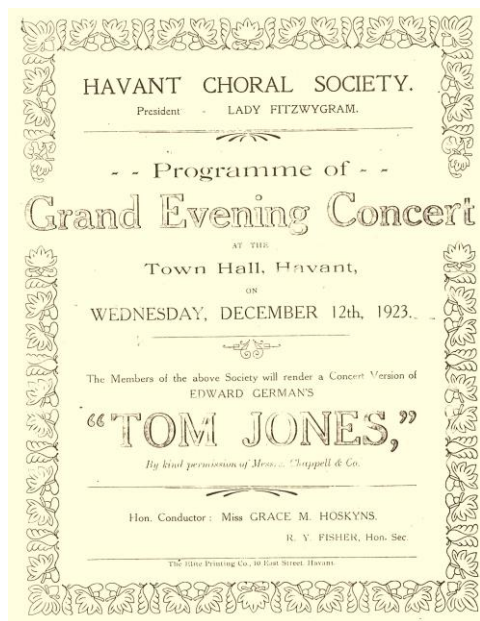
In June 1929 saw Lady Fitzwygram open the Rowlands Castle fête held on the recreation ground in the village. This sadly would be one of the last times that Lady Fitzwygram would be seen fulfilling one of her many public duties.

The 1930s would see the last decade as Leigh Park as a private residence, and probably the saddest in its long history. The early 1930s saw the start of decline in the health of Lady Fitzwygram – in July 1930 she had a fall at Leigh Park and fractured her thigh which appeared from this stage to make her house-bound and passing on all her public duties to her daughter Angela:

Leigh Park

Lady Fitzwygram – The health of Lady Fitzwygram has been giving cause for some apprehension during the past few days, and prayers for her recovery have been asked for by the local clergy. Lady Fitzwygram had a fall in her residence at Leigh Park some days ago, and fractured her thigh. On Saturday morning it was stated that her Ladyship had passed a bad night, but this morning she was reported to have had a good night, and her condition was stated to be improving.

Portsmouth Evening News, 14 July 1930



Havant Choral Society Grand Evening Concert, Town Hall. Havant, 12 December 1923. Lady Fitzwygram, President.



Group of children on a visit to Leigh Park, early 20th century. Possibly a Sunday School outing.

The park was still opened for organised groups at Leigh Park, though not in the number of previous decades. For example the year 1930 only saw one event recorded in the local press and that was in August when an outing was organised for over 400 children from Landport in Portsmouth to visit one evening:

Children's Outing To Leigh Park

Nearly 400 children, mostly from Landport, had a most enjoyable trip to Leigh Park, kindly lent by Miss Fitzwygram, last evening. As soon as they were free from school they were hurried into five motor busses outside St Thomas' Brewery, and in record time the happy party reached their destination where an inviting tea awaited them. When they had satisfied themselves in this direction, some of the children patronised the swings, others chose to spend their time on the helter-skelter and see-saw which Messrs. Handleys Ltd., had kindly lent for the occasion, but the majority elected to compete in the various races which had been arranged and for which some nice prizes were given. Dusk was falling when the children were called in to return home. The organisers were the office staff at Messrs Young's Brewery.

Portsmouth Evening News, 28 August 1930

Lady Fitzwygram's health was still giving concern as the decade rolled on. In January 1931 *The Times* ran an advertisement on Angela Fitzwygram's behalf: Maid attendant wanted to help trained nurse with old lady – must be a good lifter, good needle woman preferred – Miss Fitzwygram, Leigh Park, Hants. In March 1934 another advertisement was placed in *The Times*, this time for a maid attendant for permanent duty for semi-invalided lady at Leigh Park. It would appear that Lady Fitzwygram was at this stage probably bed-ridden.

1933 appeared to be a busy year in the calendar of the Leigh Park Estate. At the beginning of the year a maid of Lady Fitzwygram met with a serious accident along Leigh Road, when it was feared she fractured her skull while falling off a bicycle belonging to another member of Lady Fitzwygram's staff:

Leigh Road Spill – Lady Fitzwygram's Maid Meets With Accident

While walking along Leigh Road in the direction of Havant, Miss Betty Banfield, who is employed as a maid by Lady Fitzwygram, was offered a lift by a pedal cyclist who is also a member of Ladyship's staff. The girl got on the back of the

cycle with one foot on the stepping bar, but after going a little distance she fell off and received serious injuries to the head. She was conveyed in a Southdown Bus to Dr Rickett, who rendered first-aid and ordered her to be removed to hospital. It is feared that she has sustained a fractured skull.

Portsmouth Evening News, 3 January 1933



Skaters at Leigh Park, December 1933. *Portsmouth Evening News*

Also in January 1933, skating again was allowed on the lake at Leigh Park, with skaters asked to pay 1s. for the privilege with proceeds going to the Havant War Memorial Hospital. At the end of the year, in December, the same charge was made with again the proceeds going to the Havant War Memorial Hospital. Interestingly, a cine film survives showing skating on the lake in the early 1930s, possibly from this time. It was not just the skaters in the winter months who were providing funds for the Havant War Memorial Hospital – on 9 June 1933 Lady Fitzwygram opened the grounds and gardens for visitors to view the beautiful array of rhododendrons and other flowers in aid of funds for the hospital:

Leigh Park Flowers

Thanks to the kindness of Lady Fitzwygram, Leigh Park, with its beautiful array of rhododendrons, was open to the public yesterday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Havant War Memorial Hospital. Visitors from Portsmouth and elsewhere availed themselves of the opportunity of spending a delightful time amid charming surroundings. Amongst the visitors were Sir Harold and Lady Pink, Mrs E.R. Longcroft, Mrs A.S. Norman and Miss Standing. Teas were served in a pretty shaded part of the park by Mrs Whittington and helpers.

Portsmouth Evening News, 10 June 1933

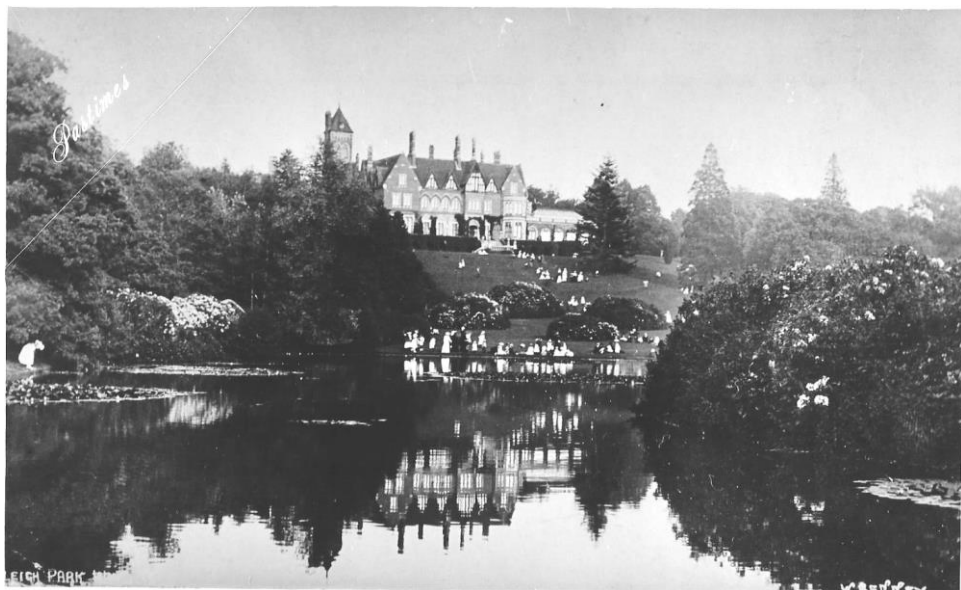
An earlier advertisement stated that the gardens would be open between the hours of 2-7 p.m. and the entrance charge would be 1s., with a bus excursion laid on in the afternoon. The sum of £6 1s. was raised towards the funds of the hospital.

In July 1933 an interesting article appeared in the Portsmouth Evening News under their "Fifty Years Ago" column, when it was recorded that the Beneficial Society gave the scholars of the Beneficial School an outing to Leigh Park on July 26 1883. On 2 July 1933 the Beneficial Old Boys Association took the present scholars to Leigh Park by the kind permission of Lady Fitzwygram. The Beneficial Old Boys Association were interested if any of the former scholars who went on that outing in 1883 would be interested in again going on the same outing. It is not clear how many of the old boys association made the trip but over 250 scholars attended the outing at Leigh Park, where a cricket match between the present scholars and the old boys was played. It is noted that the old boys won the match.

We have seen how the weather has played its part in certain times of the year at Leigh Park, with, for example, skating being allowed to take place on the lake during the winter months at the beginning and end of 1933. In October of 1933 the weather, to a certain degree, played its part in something completely different as the following newspaper article testifies:

The remarkable behaviour in the weather at such an advanced period of the year has been responsible for some curious results from a gardening point of view. One day this week Mr Frank Stockley, a Havant postman, went to his allotment on the Fitzwygram Estate and cut a runner bean which measured one foot and three-quarter inches.

Portsmouth Evening News, 20 October 1933



The mansion and lake at Leigh Park, circa 1930, with what appears to be a children's outing

With the decline in the health of Lady Fitzwygram it was no great surprise when she passed away at the age of ninety years on 5 August 1935. She had been an invalid for about five years, since breaking her leg at a fall at Leigh Park. She had been a constant figure on the estate for over 53 years, since marrying Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, the fourth baronet on 17 October 1882. She was the last link with the Victorian age and a time when the estate at Leigh Park really prospered. How well she was respected can be felt in the report of her death recorded in the Portsmouth Evening News, the day after her death:

Death of Lady Fitzwygram – Havant's Loss

Havant and district have lost a great benefactor by the death of Lady Angela Mary Ada Louisa Fitzwygram, who passed away at her residence, Leigh Park, Havant. Lady Fitzwygram, whose maiden name was Vaughan, was the widow of the late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, a former M.P. for South Hants.

For the past few years she has been in failing health, and the end came peacefully at the age of 90. She will be sadly missed, especially by charitable

organisations throughout the district to which she rendered valuable assistance by her unbounded generosity.

The funeral takes place on the 9th August when a special service will be held at 1.30 p.m. in St Faith's Church, Havant, which will be followed by the internment at Redhill Cemetery, North Havant.

Lady Fitzwygram was a daughter of Mr T. Nugent Vaughan and Mrs Vaughan (Viscountess Forbes) sometime Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria, and was born in London. She spent her early years in Ireland, where she met Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, who, like herself, was of Irish descent. After her marriage in 1882 she took up residence at Leigh Park, and has lived there for over 53 years.

Lady Fitzwygram was a keen worker on behalf of the Conservative cause, and was President of the Havant branch of the Woman's Constitutional Association. Her only son, Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, died in 1920 from the effects of war wounds and had gained the Military Cross. She leaves one daughter, Miss Angela Katherine Fitzwygram, who still resides at Leigh Park, and with whom much sympathy is felt. A tribute to the remarkably good constitution and courage of Lady Fitzwygram is reflected in the fact that she lived five years after breaking her leg in a fall at her residence about the time that her health began to fail.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society and the British Red Cross were amongst the many deserving causes to which her ladyship rendered generous aid.

Portsmouth Evening News, 6 August 1935

The above obituary reminds us how generous Lady Fitzwygram was with her time, being involved with many local good causes and local societies. It mentioned her involvement with the British Red Cross and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare Association and to this list can be added local associations of which she gave her patronage such as the Havant Choral Society, Portsmouth Anglers Association, who used the lake at Leigh Park, Havant Women's Constitutional Society as well as involvement with the Portsmouth Primrose League (Fitzwygram Habitation), of which her husband had been keenly involved with and she became Dame President after his death. Many more clubs and societies of course can be added to this long list.

Her funeral, on 9 August, was carried out in the same tradition as that of her late husband and son, with a service at St Faith's Church, Havant, and the actual internment in the family burial plot in the churchyard at St John's Church, Redhill, Rowlands Castle:

Funeral of Lady Fitzwygram – Impressive Scenes

The funeral of Lady Fitzwygram took place on Friday amid impressive scenes. There were many signs of public sympathy as the cortege wended its way from Leigh Park, the residence of the Fitzwygram family, to St. Faith's Church, Havant, where a special service was held. The Ven. Archdeacon Rodgers, Rector of Havant, officiated in the presence of a very large and representative congregation. The service was fully choral, with Mr G. Hilsden at the organ and the hymns were "How Bright These Glorious Spirits Shone," "On the Resurrection Morning," and "Abide with me."

After the service the cortege left Havant for Redhill Cemetery, two miles away, and proceeded through Leigh Park, by the South Lodge gate past Leigh Park House and on through the North Lodge Gate close to the Redhill Cemetery. There was another large gathering by the side of the grave in which reposed the remains of the late Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, and into which the coffin bearing the body of his widow was reverently lowered.

Principal mourners were Miss A. Fitzwygram (daughter), the Earl of Granard (nephew), Col. R.G Bolton (nephew), Col. the Hon. Donald Forbes (nephew), Miss Paget (niece), Mrs Close (niece), Mrs Bolton (niece), Sir Clifford Wygram, Canon Wygram (cousins), Mrs Donald Forbes.

Other mourners included the gentry from the local district as well as representatives of some of the societies and organisations Lady Fitzwygram was associated with. Representatives from the Leigh Park Estate were also present. In her will Lady Fitzwygram left estate of the gross value of £34,910 17s 1d. with net personalty £34,692 10s 2d on which estate duty of £3,628 11s 2d. had been paid. Probate of her will had been granted to her daughter, Angela, the sole executrix, to whom all the property was left to absolutely.

With the death of Lady Fitzwygram it only left Angela as the sole remaining member of the family. At the time of Lady Fitzwygram's death Angela was a month short of her fiftieth birthday and unmarried. Changes must have been carried out in regards to the estate during the two decades since Major Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's death. It would appear that no major changes were made to the actual estate up to the time of

Lady Fitzwygram's death – they would come in the following years, but it is probable that staffing levels dropped during the period of before and after Lady Fitzwygram's death. It is unclear how many outdoor staff, including gardeners, woodmen, and other estate workers, were employed on the estate during the 1920s and 1930s. Nationally it has been said that apart from the very large and grand estates the smaller estates suffered after end of the First World War with a shortage of men and with men not wishing to go back to their former employment.

Inside the house, again the level of staffing dropped, and it appeared that a change or turnover of staff may have happened after Lady Fitzwygram's death. In the mid-1930s advertisements were placed in *The Times* advertising for indoor staff such as housemaids etc. Information gleaned from these show that the indoor staff amounted to between five and six. For example, in April 1936, an advertisement was placed as follows: Wanted Good Cook-Housekeeper; middle aged, excellent references, not Roman Catholic, good manager, reliable person, staff six, state wages, fullest particulars, Miss Fitzwygram, Leigh Park, Havant.

A more intriguing advertisement appeared in *The Times* in September 1937:

Wanted Married Couple

Butler and Housemaid or Butler and Cook, must have excellent references, state full particulars: family two, staff five, Miss Fitzwygram, Leigh Park Havant.

Interestingly this advertisement recorded that there were two members of the family living at Leigh Park at this time. It was two years after the death of Lady Fitzwygram and it may have been the case that another member of the family, such as a unmarried cousin, was living at Leigh Park with Angela as a companion. Angela, as was her mother and brother were very close to the Paget family and it is possible that an unmarried cousin was living at Leigh Park with Angela after her mother's death.

So what do we really know of Miss Angela Fitzwygram? Like her brother, Sir Frederick, she never married and was very close to her mother. As a young woman before the start of the First World War she probably never dreamed that one day she would be the last member of the family surviving and that she would be running the Leigh Park Estate single-handed. We know that Angela took a more hands on

involvement with the estate from the 1920s, and certainly after the decline in the health of Lady Fitzwygram.

It appears that no photographs survive of Angela as a an adult, certainly photographs of her as a child survive, but what we do know is that she was a talented water-colour painter, as her views of the Leigh Park Estate show, which she painted between 1911 and 1913. It is not known if she ever painted portraits of members of her family.

Older residents of the Havant area could remember Angela in the last few years of her time at Leigh Park. Mrs Doel, the wife of Harry Doel, a tenant farmer of Park View Dairy, Durrants, reminiscing of the 1930s, remembers Angela always walking around the estate with a pair of secateurs in her hand, always cutting off ivy from trees. It appeared from Mrs Doel that Angela always took an interest in her tenants, visiting them whenever she could.

Things would take an almighty change in December 1936 when Angela decided to sell the outlying portion of the Leigh Park Estate. This amounted to 1,265 acres, made up of mostly farm land tenanted by 18 farms and smallholdings and cottages. Further land, mostly around Havant and Rowlands Castle was also put up for sale, with building in mind. This came as a great shock as it began what would become the great decline of the estate. The farms and smallholdings, some dating back to the early days of Sir George Staunton's time at Leigh Park, had been part of the main stay of the estate.

On 12 December 1936 the following appeared in the local press:

Leigh Park Estate – Portions To Be Sold By Auction

The sale by auction, on the 17th of this month, of the outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate, Havant, has created considerable interest, not only locally but in the property market as a whole. The Leigh Park Estate covers about 2,500 acres immediately to the north of and adjacent to Havant Town, and includes practically all the land between Havant and Rowlands Castle.

It has been for the past 60 years in the ownership of the Fitzwygram family, who have maintained it as a residential and agricultural estate, and although its farms reach to the edge of Havant Town, they have steadfastly refused to allow the general development of any part of it, and it is on the instructions of Miss A.C.A. Fitzwygram that the present sale is taking place.

The part that now comes into the market amounts in all to about 1,250 acres, comprising not only farms and accommodation lands which have been maintained and cultivated in the best traditions of agriculture for a number of years past, but a considerable area of building land in the immediate vicinity of Havant Town.

The present sale is to take place at the Drill Hall, Havant, on Thursday next, December 17, commencing at 11 o'clock, when the property will first be offered as a whole by Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis and Co., of 29 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4, who have been for so many years connected with the Estate.

Portsmouth Evening News, 12 December 1936



Park View Dairy, c.1930 during the tenure of Mr. Harry Doel. Courtesy of Mrs Doel

Park View Dairy, situated on Durrants Road, was a smallholding on the Leigh Park Estate that was sold off in the sale of December 1936. The name still survives in a block of flats that stand on the site.

NEAR PORTSMOUTH

Particulars, Plans and Conditions of Sale of

PARTS OF THE

LEIGH PARK ESTATE HAVANT

COMPRISING

LARGE and SMALL

Farms, Small Holdings, Accommodation Land

WITH

Cottages, Woodlands

AND

Valuable Building Land

adjacent to the Town and Possessing

EXTENSIVE ROAD FRONTAGES

The Whole covering about

1,265 Acres

To be offered for Sale by Auction by Messrs.

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.

At the Drill Hall, West Street, Havant

On THURSDAY, the 17th Day of DECEMBER, 1936

At 11 a.m.

IN 74 LOTS (unless previously Sold by Private Treaty)

Cover of the Sales Catalogue of the sale of outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate,
17 December 1936

Before the sale of the outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate all the tenants, be it farmers, smallholders, or cottagers, were given a guarantee by Angela Fitzwygram that they could have the choice of buying the property they were in. Mrs Doel, reminiscing, some years after the event, stated that the tenants were all given assurances that this was the case, but unfortunately this did not happen, instead the whole of the land was sold off in one lot instead of the 74 lots listed in the catalogue.

Lot 17
(Coloured *Green* on Plan No. 2).

A Compact Small Holding

KNOWN AS

PARK VIEW DAIRY

Lying on the Eastern side of Durrants Road in the Village of Durrants, containing an Area of

1a. 0r. 17p.

PADDOCK with good Road Frontage, RICKYARD and GARDENS.

And included is

An Attractive Dwelling House

Of Brick construction with tiled roof, containing Four Bed Rooms, Two Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Scullery and Dairy. E.C.

Electric Light laid on. Gas Services available.

A RANGE OF USEFUL OUTBUILDINGS.

Cow-house with 3 milking stalls, Mill House, Loose Box, Two Pigsties and Bull Shed.

Water laid on to House and Buildings.

Le: to Mr. H. A. Doel on a Yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, with other land comprised in Lots 2, 3, 19 and 20, at a total Rent of £70 per annum, the Rent apportioned to this Lot being

Per £25 Ann.

Early Possession can be obtained for Building.

Tithe Annuity 4s.

Sales particular to Lot 17 Park View Dairy

At the sale on 17 December 1936 the land, actually measuring 1,271 acres was bought for the sum of £65,500 by Mr Maurice Hill of Purbrook Park under his company name of Park Leigh Estates Ltd.:

Leigh Park Estate – Sold in One Lot for £65,500

Considerable interest was shown on the part of the public and builders, estate agents, and members of the legal profession in the sale by public of about 1,250 acres of land forming part of the Leigh Park Estate, Havant, which was held in the Drill Hall, Havant, to-day.

At the outset the Auctioneer, Mr S.A. Wilde, on behalf of Messrs. Farebrother and Ellis, solicitors acting for the estate, offered the whole of the land as one lot. The bidding started for this at £50,000 and by bids of £1,000 and £500 the offers rose to £65,000. It was knocked down to Mr Maurice Hill, of Purbrook Park.

The timber, etc., was sold to Mr Maurice Hill for £4,129. It is understood that when building development takes place on any part of the estate the new purchaser intends that it should be in harmony with the rural surroundings of Leigh Park. Leigh Park Mansion and the Park surrounding it were not included in the sale.

Portsmouth Evening News, 17 December 1936

The outcome of the sale was that all of the land put up for auction was acquired by Maurice Hill of Purbrook Park, a man who held extensive property around the area, including Merchistoun Hall at Horndean. Mr Hill was a property developer and builder with extensive interests. What is interesting is that at the time of the sale Mr Hill made it clear that: 'when building development takes place on any part of the estate the new purchaser intends that it should be in harmony with the rural surroundings of Leigh Park.' To a large degree he kept to this point by offering all the tenanted farmers and smallholders the chance to carry on on their farms and the majority of the tenants took up this offer, including the many cottagers who had close connections with the estate. Building land close to the town of Havant was sold off by Hill for development and no doubt other areas, such as in Rowlands Castle were also sold off or developed. For the tenanted farmers this was only a short stop as later most of the farms disappeared under the new Leigh Park Housing Estate, but for now at least they were safe. Some of the tenants had been on their farms for generations, families such as the Whitbread family of Middle Park Farm had been tenants for three generations or so and tenants such as the Tee and Travis families had been tenants for many years.

Lot.	Short description.	Rent, etc.	Area.	Annuity.
		£ s. d.	a. r. p.	£ s. d.
owlands Castle.				
1	Manor Lodge, Red Hill, Rowlands Castle ...	10 16 8	38	
2	Building Land do. ...	8 0 0	4 2 31	
3	do. do. ...	6 0 0	2 2 7	
4	do. adjoining St. John's Church... ..	8 0 0	1 2 20	8 1
5	do. Staunton Cross Road	In Hand	1 3 2	
6	Nos. 4, 5 and 6, East Durrants	39 17 4	1 13	
7	No. 7 do.	13 19 0	1 23	
8	No. 10 do.	19 10 0	29	
9	No. 11 do.	10 16 8	20	
10	No. 12 do.	19 10 0	18	
11	No. 14 do.	19 10 0	19	
12	Building Site do.	In Hand	1 0 22	
13	No. 26, East Durrants	15 12 0	17	
14	No. 26 do.	10 16 8	17	
15	No. 28 do.	15 12 0	16	
16	No. 29 do.	10 16 8	22	
17	Park View Dairy	25 0 0	1 0 17	4 0
18	Nos. 18, 19 and 20, East Durrants	23 12 4	1 0	
19	No. 14 do. with land	57 5 0	14 1 25	4 11 4
20	Durrants Farm	59 14 0	14 1 6	4 4 2
21	Little Leigh Farm	38 0 0	11 3 22	3 0 3
22	Prospect Farm	172 5 0	134 0 21	25 0 8
23	Locks Coppice	25 0 0	3 1 20	2 3
24	Leigh Nurseries	60 0 0	6 1 20	2 0 6
25	Arable Field, Leigh Lane	15 0 0	10 1 27	4 4 1
26	Whichers Gate Farm	50 0 0	13 0 14	8 9
27	Pasture Field, Leigh Lane	9 0 0	3 2 39	
28	Grazing Land at Whichers Gate	22 0 0	18 0 36	1 3 7
Havant.				
29	Havant Farmhouse and Land	108 10 0	26 0 37	17 13 7
29a	Building Land, Leigh Road, Havant	10 0 0	6 0 19	4 0 0
30	do.	12 0 0	7 0 38	4 8 3
31	do.	12 0 0	7 2 13	4 14 3
32	Land adjoining Leigh Cross Roads	55 4 6	31 1 21	17 12 5
33	Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Leigh Cottages	61 15 8	1 34	
34	Nos. 4, 5 and 6 do.	44 12 8	1 6	
35	Nos. 7, 8 and 9 do.	54 0 8	1 9	
36	Land in New Lane and West Leigh Road	55 15 0	34 0 23	14 11 5
37	Arable Field in New Lane	40 12 6	24 3 25	14 17 7
38	Pair of Cottages and Land in New Lane	35 1 0	13 3 18	4 15 8
39	Dog Kennel Farm	34 0 0	12 0 7	5 11 2
40	Building Land, New Lane	11 2 6	6 3 5	3 14 3
41	Small Building Estate, Havant	30 17 0	9 3 1	3 13 11
42	Market Garden and Allotment Land	41 0 0	10 2 14	7 2 7
43	No. 3, Leigh Terrace, Havant	19 18 8	6	7
44	No. 8 do.	19 18 8	7	7
45	No. 10 do.	19 18 8	7	7
46	Poplar Farm, Stockheath	24 10 0	4 0 8	
47	Allotment Ground	40 0 0	5 2 32	3 4 6
48	Nos. 3 and 4, Blacktown Cottages and Land	79 19 0	8 2 1	4 4 8
49	Building Land in Stockheath Lane	68 18 0	18 0 7	9 10 1
50	Land in Leigh Road and Stockheath Lane	68 12 6	43 1 25	25 17 9
51	Building Land in Leigh Road	23 0 0	14 2 37	7 10 10
52	Corner Building Site at Leigh Cross Roads	5 0 0	6 0 27	3 1 7
53	Battins Copse	In Hand	6 2 1	4 10
54	Stockheath Farm	100 0 0	32 0 36	11 1 0
55	No. 3, Potash Terrace, Havant	14 3 10	3	
56	Building Land at Bedhampton	9 0 0	3 0 17	17 9
57	Nos. 3 and 4, New Road, Bedhampton	47 11 2	16	
58	Nos. 5 and 6 do. Bedhampton	37 18 4	19	
59	Inglede Farm, Bedhampton	51 6 0	9 2 28	2 17 3
60	Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Bedhampton Crossing	51 12 4	37	10 0
61	The Bedhampton Reading Room	1 0	10	2 7
62	Stockheath Villa Farm	66 10 0	28 2 9	7 3 1
63	Dairy Holding, Stockheath Common	138 0 0	65 3 2	2 8 1
64	Violet Cottage do.	24 1 0	2 12	
65	Sunnyside Cottage do.	32 0 0	1 36	4 10
66	Riders Lane Farm	98 0 0	39 1 26	11 9
67	Smiths Farm at Bedhampton	67 0 0	26 1 38	
68	Middle Park Farm	209 14 0	194 3 0	1 11
69	Nos. 4 and 5, Bondfield Cottages	26 0 0	2 12	
70	Dunsbury Hill Farm	177 0 0	237 0 10	3 9
71	Westbrook Farm, Cowplain	67 0 0	65 0 0	
72	Building Land do.	5 10 0	6 3 16	1 8
73	Hewetts Plantation, Cowplain	In Hand	16 0 17	
			1,271 0 13	

Schedule and list of properties sold in the sale of 17 December 1936. Note the yearly rents being paid by the tenants.

As for the Leigh Park Estate, it was now much reduced in size, only the parklands and gardens remained, close to the mansion, but it still left over 700 acres of land. The sell-off of land was the first death knell in the quick decline of the estate, and with war not that many years away further changes were inevitable. It would not be long before Angela Fitzwygram herself vacated Leigh Park and moved on to pastures new. Before she did, one of her last recorded acts of kindness was to set up a "Field of rest for aged and pensioned horses" in a two acre enclosure at Leigh Park in June 1938, probably with her father in mind who himself was a great friend to military horses:

A Field of Rest for Horses

Lovers of Animals, especially horses, will be delighted to know that Miss Fitzwygram has been generous enough to set apart in her lovely grounds at Leigh Park, Havant, a "Field of Rest" for aged and pensioned horses.

The Chairman of the Portsmouth Branch of the R.S.P.C.A., Dr Montague Way, J.P., visited the field recently, and reports that he found an area of some two acres fenced off, an ample supply of grass, well shaded here and there by large trees, a regular supply of water led from the main, feeding a large trough, a large shed recently built for the purpose, fitted with mangers, and that a supply of hay is available in the event of any shortage of grass

The Field of Rest will be visited by Mr Bridgman, the Hon. Veterinary Surgeon to the Local Branch, once a week, and Miss Fitzwygram's head man (an animal lover) will visit the field morning and evening. The Field of Rest will be available for use from May to early October to owners of horses and ponies who can ill afford to pay for their upkeep, free of all charge.

Portsmouth Evening News, 3 June 1938

In January 1939, Angela, still at Leigh Park at this time, consented to become Dame President of the Fitzwygram Habitation of the Primrose League in succession to her mother. The Habitation was formed to perpetuate the memory of her father Lt. Gen Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. In March of the same year she was re-elected a vice-president of the Havant Constitutional Association. The above two events appear to be the last that Angela was involved with during her life at Leigh Park. Certainly by the outbreak of war on 3 September 1939 Angela had moved out of Leigh Park. The last few years since the decline in health and death of her mother must have been quite a sad time for her. After all she had spent all of her life at Leigh Park and at the age of 54 perhaps she thought it best to move on, especially with war clouds looming. With war clouds looming it has been rumoured that Angela had been approached

before the start of the war to give up Leigh Park for possible war work but this cannot be substantiated.

Angela Fitzwygram moved to another large house, though not as substantial as the Leigh Park Estate, the new property was called coincidentally Leigh Heights, situated in just a few acres of land at Hindhead in Surrey, a mile from Hindhead Common and the Devil's Punch Bowl. Previous to moving from Leigh Park Angela sold off some of the family jewels, such as diamond brooches, necklaces, and pendants, presumably belonging to her mother. Her name and items of jewellery crop up in sales at Christies and other prominent auctioneers in the late 1930s.

Leigh Heights was built by the architect William Cecil Marshall in 1887 as a home for himself. He died in 1921. The house still survives and is now the Hindhead Music Centre, originally known as the Hindhead School of Music, which was founded in 1975 by the harpist, Ann Hughes-Chamberlain. It is unclear when Angela finally moved from there into a nursing home in her later years.



Leigh Heights, Hindhead, now Hindhead Music Centre

A day before war was declared a small article appeared in the Portsmouth Evening News, heralding one of the last phases in the life of Leigh Park House:

College Transfer

In the event of hostilities Hilsea College will be removed to Leigh Park, between Havant and Rowlands Castle, the home of the Fitzwygram family. The Park is set in park and woodland of over 700 acres. The College buildings are being taken over for official purposes.

Portsmouth Evening News, 2 September 1939

After war was declared Hilsea College duly moved into Leigh Park House under the headmastership of John Ellis-Jones, but as well shall see it was only for a short period. After moving to Leigh Park notices started to appear in the local press advertising the fact:

Hilsea College

These Colleges for Boys and Girls have been transferred to well-kept and commodious buildings in a safety zone, The Boarding House is at Leigh Park, amid 700 acres of park and woodland: the School House is at West Leigh House, in an adjoining estate, one mile from Havant, to which the Southdown Company are arranging convenient services. Parents need have no apprehension regarding the safety and comfort of their children. Address: Leigh Park, Havant. Phone 55. Autumn Term September 19.

Portsmouth Evening News, 5 September 1939

Leigh Park 1940-1944

After eleven months Hilsea College was duly on the move again, after the Leigh Park Estate was requisitioned by the government, to be used by the Admiralty Mine Design and Research Department which had previously been located within the Naval land base of HMS Vernon at Portsmouth. Another notice appeared in the local press advertising the fact that Hilsea College was leaving Leigh Park and re-locating to Oakley Hall, near Basingstoke, the last day at Leigh Park being 29 August 1940:

Hilsea College

Owing to the College having had its premises requisitioned by the Government for the second time within eleven months, it is being transferred from Leigh Park to Oakley Hall, Oakley, near Basingstoke, about 4 miles from Basingstoke and 36 miles from Portsmouth.

The Autumn term will start on September 17th, but pupils can be received after August 31st if specially desired. Communications to Hilsea College, Leigh Park, Havant, up to August 29th will be received: thereafter to Oakley Hall.

Portsmouth Evening News, 27 August 1940



Card from Hilsea College, Leigh Park

Admiralty Use

After Hilsea College left Leigh Park at the end of August the Superintendent of Mine Design Department (M.D.D.) and his staff, a civilian design establishment located within HMS *Vernon*, quickly moved out to Leigh Park House and West Leigh House. The move was made necessary as HMS *Vernon's* demands for training became

paramount as well as on 24 August 1940 German air raids made their first direct hits on Portsmouth Dockyard and HMS *Vernon* itself. The M.D.D. had already moved out of HMS *Vernon* by the time of the first air raids, and spent a few months before transferring to Leigh Park House in an office block in Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

The sections of the department responsible for the design of mines, depth charges and minesweeping, etc., was re-established at Leigh Park House, which became the headquarters. The research section, however, was sited at the nearby West Leigh House, which had just become vacant after the removal of Hilsea College, and the Naval Staff of HMS *Vernon*, responsible for trials of M.D.D. equipment was placed in West Leigh Cottage.

Of course little information of what was going on at Leigh Park and the other nearby establishments was leaked out. Leigh Park was almost cut off from the rest of world, with Police guards at the gates and entrance to the house. The main entrance being on Petersfield Road close to the stables block. Nobody was allowed in without the proper pass. Interestingly we do get a good description of what was going at Leigh Park and West Leigh from an article printed after the war had ended with Germany. The piece, undated, but from 1945, tells us a little of what important work was going on:

In the Manor A Battle Goes On

In a gloomy country house somewhere in the south of England, with bare boards underfoot and sparsely furnished and sparsely furnished bedrooms and living rooms as offices, the Royal Navy's "Secret Weapon" men during the past five and a half years fought and won one of the most important battles in the war against Germany. The battle still goes on, but this time with Japan as the enemy.

Today, for the first time, it is possible to tell of some of the work of the Admiralty Mine Design Department. Head of the organisation is Captain F.H.M. Vaughan R.N., a torpedo and mining expert. One of his technicians, Mr Fred Pickford, a graduate of Manchester University, joined the department in the last war as a lieutenant, R.N.V.R. He is still there as a senior technical officer.

The department designed the mines which the R.A.F. used to breach the Ems-Dortmund Canal, and the charges for the human torpedo and the midget submarine. They produced the delayed-action charges which blew the lock gates at St Nazaire two days after the raid in 1942 causing a second panic to break

out in the town. They made an exploding carpet-sweeper, and a mine out of a petrol can which Greek officers used to block the Corinth Canal after the evacuation from Greece.

In the grounds of the house used by the scientists – a few miles from the headquarters is a non-magnetic hut, built of wood and brass. Not a single piece of magnetic metal is used in its construction. Here magnetic mines are tested on a contraption called "The Egg." To help with under-water experiments a disused lido was taken over. Where peacetime swimmers used to plunge, mines lay in their ugly cases. By means of gramophone records and film and sound tracks the noise of a ship moving through the water was reproduced underwater.

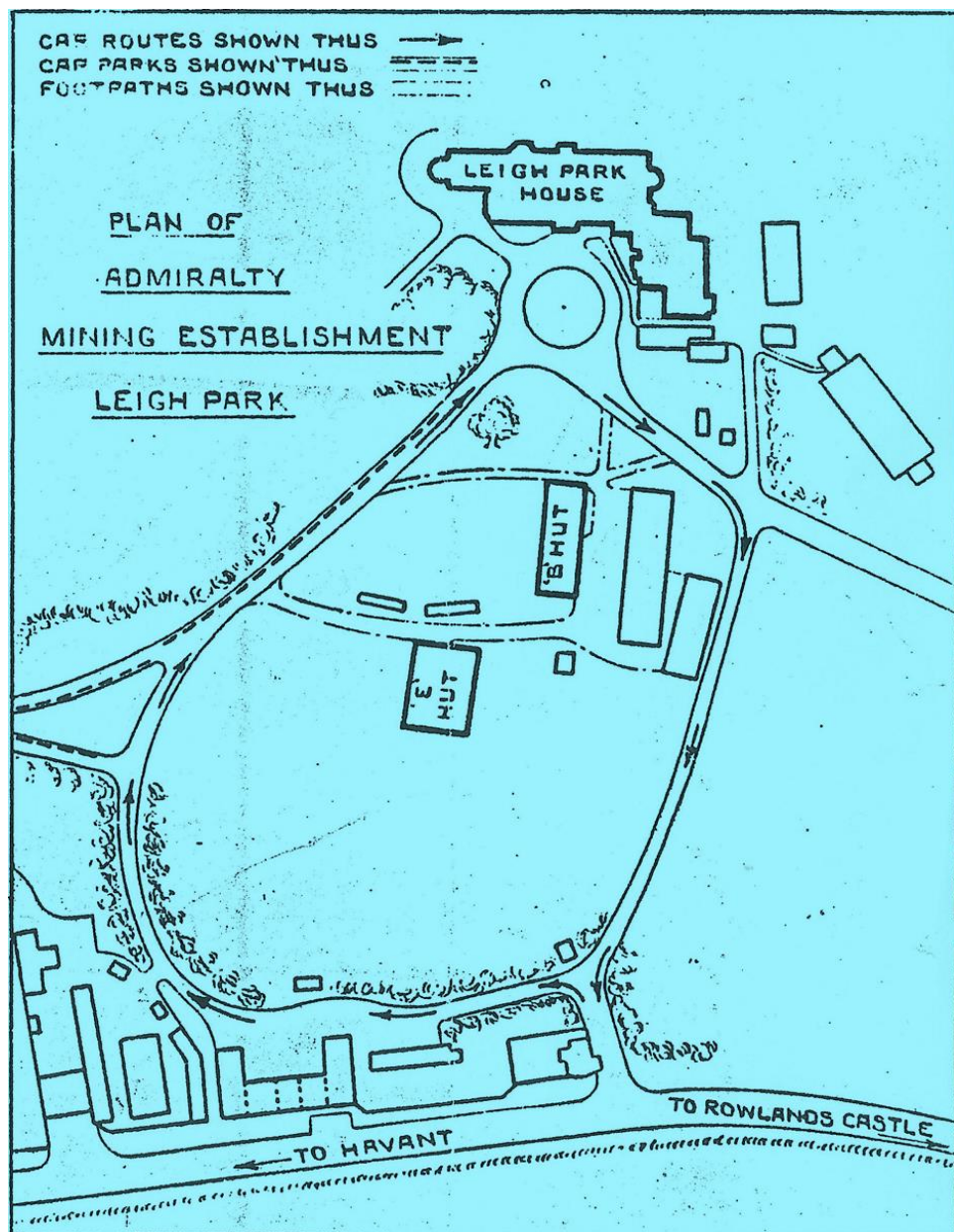
What was once the conservatory of this country house is now the museum. Under its glass roof are dozens of gadgets from mines to depth-charge pistols. To see the civilian scientists and technicians walking in the grounds with the naval officers, one would think that some country squires were showing a number of friends round a country estate, not that they were engaged in a constant battle of wits with the greatest brains on the enemy's side.



Leigh Park House, circa 1940



Entrance to Leigh Park House with policeman (Mr Abbott) on duty, circa 1940



Plan of the Admiralty Mining Establishment, Leigh Park

As the headquarters and administrative centre of the whole operation Leigh Park House was not the ideal accommodation for a modern design department, but the best had to be made of what was available, and the rooms were allocated in accordance of the needs of the staff. The largest room served as a conference room and doubled as a dining room for the senior staff. Rooms on the first floor were allocated to the Superintendent and to his assistants. Various members of the civilian staff were housed on the first and second floors, with the drawing offices mainly on the ground floor. The purchasing staff, and those responsible for instruction manuals were on the first floor, while the canteen was located near the one time kitchen, with the telephone exchange upstairs in one of the rooms in the upper rear of the house.

It was certain that with the changes going on in the house that it would never again be a residential home. It was also said that structural changes were made inside of the mansion with some interior walls being removed. It has also to be remembered that although Angela Fitzwygram had left the estate she was still at this time the owner of what was left of the estate.

Other activities at Leigh Park at this time was that the establishment had its own Home Guard based in the park, presumably many members were the civilian staff who worked at Leigh Park and West Leigh. Photographs of the time show the Home Guard performing manoeuvres in the park and woodland at Leigh Park. Fire Watching was another activity carried out, but luckily no threats were made on the estate.

Apart from the house, Nissen huts were erected on the lawns leading up to the entrance of the house, and no doubt all the other outbuildings, including the stables and saw mills area, were taken over by the Admiralty, including the ice house, close to the lake, which was used as a magazine to store explosives. One former worker at the establishment later remarked how cold it was in winter with the heating in the Nissen huts barely giving out any heat making it almost impossible to use a pen or any other instrument, but he does mention that on the whole working conditions were not too bad.

We are lucky that photographs of when the Admiralty were at Leigh Park survive, most of them are from the 1940-44 period, some official photographs and others taken by members of staff at the time and showing members of staff. Some of the photographs are some of the last photographs of the house and give us a glimpse of what the estate was like at this time.

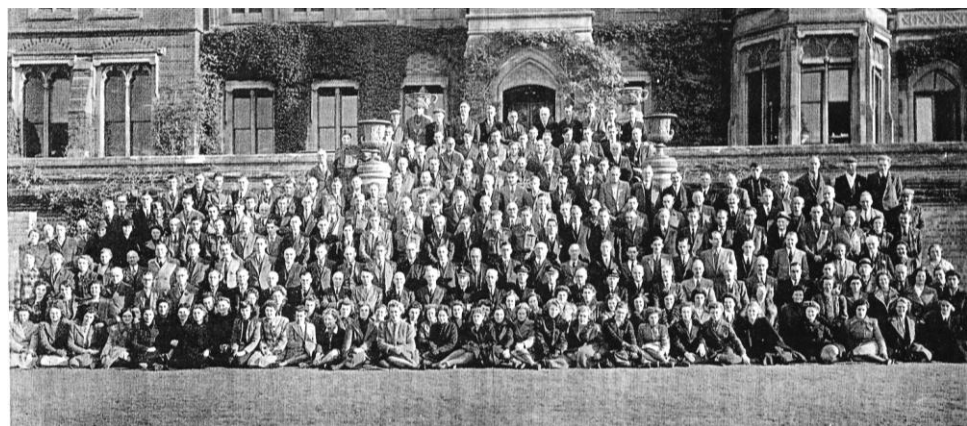


Leigh Park House, circa 1940

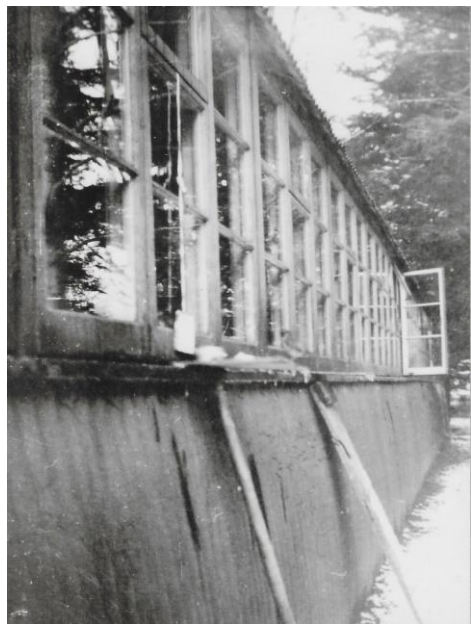








Civilian Staff at Leigh Park circa 1944



Side view of one of the Nissen huts
at Leigh Park, 1940-44



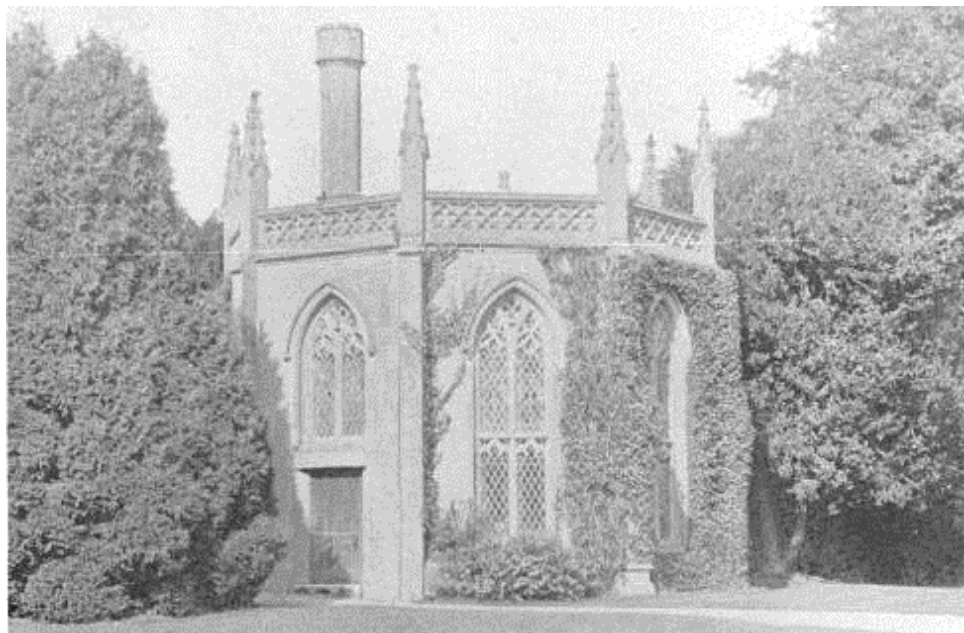
South Lodge, Leigh Park, 1944



Staunton Arms, circa 1940. Note the policeman on duty at the crossroads. This was probably connected with the war work going on at Leigh Park at this period. The entrance via North Lodge is just to the right of the photograph.

It is unusual to have so many photographs of this period, especially with restrictions due to vital war work, but what it does show is the last days of the old Leigh Park Estate. In some of the photographs the park and gardens look as though they were not maintained to the highest levels as in previous years, but this is understandable due to what was going at this time.

One interesting and rather sad fact about the Admiralty occupation concerned the old library in the south gardens. Built by Sir George Staunton in 1832, it was an extension to the old Staunton mansion and was built primarily to house Staunton's collection of Chinese books. It is the only part of the old mansion that still survives after it was demolished around 1865. Up to the time of the Admiralty occupation it still retained stain-glass windows depicting members of Sir George Staunton's family line. These windows were taken out during the war years for safe keeping but unfortunately were lost and never returned.



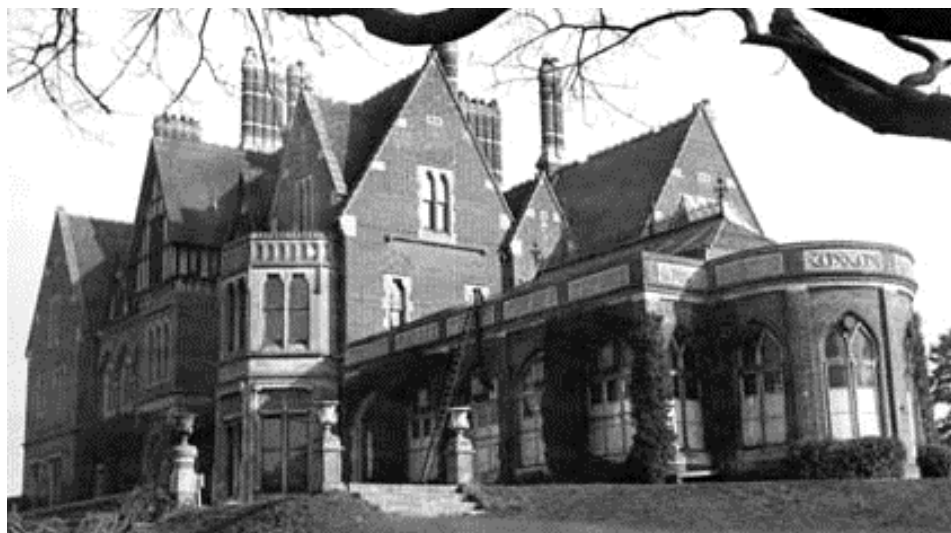
The Gothic Library at Leigh Park, 1925. At this time the stain-glass windows placed there by Sir George Staunton were still intact. The windows were taken out during the war for safe keeping and unfortunately never returned. *Photograph by the Hampshire Field Club.*

As with the Great War it must have been the case that many men and former tenants were called up for national service. It is unclear how many staff were still employed on the estate at this time. After all Angela Fitzwygram was no longer living on the estate, although she still owned the property. As we have seen most of the cottages on the estate had also been sold off along with the farms and smallholdings and it appeared that the only cottages still connected with the estate were the lodges at the entrances to the estate.

The only farm still left to the estate was the Home Farm or Leigh Park Farm, under the tenancy of Henry Lucas, who no doubt supplied such luxuries as fresh milk and other very welcome food supplies to those stationed at Leigh Park House.



Haymaking is now in full swing and when our photographer visited Leigh Park Farm the sweep was being worked. *Portsmouth Evening News*, 4 July 1942



Leigh Park House. 1940-44

LEIGH PARK and PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL 1943-44

Death of the Estate – Birth of A New One

It was in the early days of the war that the first proposal of extra land for housing the people of Portsmouth outside of the city was first mooted. In early 1943 the idea of Leigh Park being the site for a proposed satellite town was first raised by Portsmouth City Council. At a meeting of Portsmouth City Council, chaired by the City Architect Mr F.A.C. Maunder, in February 1943, to examine re-planning of the City after the war, Leigh Park, along with the areas of Waterlooville and Purbrook, as well as Paulsgrove, were first mentioned as possible locations for new housing which would surely be needed after the duration of the war. As regard to Leigh Park the report on the meeting stated in the words of Mr Maunder that:

Leigh Park “Town”

We had to go into the country, and among the sites they had in mind the most famous was Leigh Park – a site of 1,400 acres of wood and park-land. It was proposed to put a satellite town there to take from 30,000 to 35,000 people.

A second site was Purbrook and Waterlooville. Cheap transport, he thought, could be obtained if the Corporation could go over their own land. The kind of houses would be those with gardens. There would have to be a small percentage of flats in the Old Portsmouth and Portsea district, where there was not enough land, especially if the Government took part of Portsea. The extension of the City boundaries would follow automatically.

Portsmouth Evening News, 24 February 1943

The Deputy Mayor of Portsmouth pointed out at another planning meeting on 16 March 1943 *“that the Leigh Park Estate had been chosen as a satellite town because people could get there quickly by electric train and by road.”*

Leigh Park was certainly the flavour of the month with the Portsmouth City Councillors, for in September 1943 it was suggested that a new institute for the care of the aged and infirm of Portsmouth might be better suited to be built at Leigh Park

Leigh Park Site

Councillor N. Harrison, said the Council had tentatively sanctioned a plan and so far as he could see there would not be more than a third of the population on the island. The best site for an institution might be in the vicinity of Leigh Park where one of the satellite towns would be. The old and infirm should be in an institution where they could be reasonably looked after.

Portsmouth Evening News, 23 September 1943

This never came into being but the fervour for a new town at Leigh Park never abated. On 26 October 1943, at a meeting of Portsmouth City Council it was disclosed that in the previous July, Councillor Frederick Storey had informed the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance Committee that he was in possession of information which might enable him to purchase, on behalf of the Corporation, all the land required for the Leigh Park satellite town, together with the green belt. It was also said that this opportunity was not likely to continue when more publicity had been given to the Council's proposals, and indeed in view of the mentions which had already been made, it would require extremely careful handling.

It has to be remembered that at this time that Leigh Park House, although occupied by the Admiralty, and the land that remained with was still owned by Angela Fitzwygram. The other land that was interesting Portsmouth City Council was the

land that Miss Fitzwygram had sold off in 1936 and further land not part of the original Leigh Park Estate. With Angela Fitzwygram moving away from Leigh Park it was probably her intention eventually to sell the estate but circumstances certainly brought this fact nearer.

The report of the meeting was published in the Council Minutes in February 1944 and continued:

Owing to the war-time restrictions on capital expenditure and the refusal of H.M. Government to consider schemes extending beyond one-year housing programme, there was great doubt whether the project could be carried into effect. Nevertheless the enormous advantage to the Corporation in preparing and carrying through their plans for the satellite town in owning the freehold in question seemed to justify every effort.

Accordingly a deputation consisting of the Lord Mayor, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Town Clerk, the City Treasurer, the Deputy City Architect and Councillor Storey waited upon the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and explained the proposal.

This was favourably received, but it became apparent that a large number of Ministries would be involved and the most serious obstacle would be the Treasury embargo. The City Treasurer was able to state that owing to the curtailment of capital expenditure during the War, there was sufficient money available in the Consolidated Fund to cover the expenditure without recourse to borrowing.

In view of the stated policy of the Treasury this matter had to be referred for the personal decision of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Thanks to the expeditious handling of the matter by the Ministries concerned and their favourable co-operation, Treasury agreement was secured during August.

On the authority of the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Storey opened negotiations and when it became apparent that progress could be made, the matter was reported to that Committee who authorised Councillor Storey to continue negotiations on their behalf and agreed to indemnify him in respect of agency valuation and other professional fees which it might be necessary to incur. At the same time it was clear that before

the purchase could be made, the matter would require the sanction of the Council.

Councillor Storey immediately proceeded with the negotiations, but great difficulty was experienced in securing contracts. Councillor Storey reported at a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that he would be in a position to bring the whole matter to the Council at the Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 26th October, 1943, but he also had to report that one contract had been received and was ready for approval when he had received an intimation from the Vendors that they had heard of the Planning proposals, and that they declined to proceed. Councillor Storey at his own risk approved the contract, and tendered the deposit, but the Vendor refused to accept this. This misfortune illustrated very clearly the difficulty of negotiating on behalf of the Local Authority, and it was clearly necessary for the highest degree of secrecy to be maintained.

The proposals provide for the acquisition by the Corporation of approximately 2,400 acres, bounded on the south by a line between Stockheath Lane and Denvilles, on the East by the main Southern Railway, on the North-East by the Emsworth-Horndean Road, on the North-West by Blendworth Common, and on the West generally by the Western boundary of the Havant and Waterloo Urban District, at a purchase price not exceeding £150,000 inclusive of costs:

The Committee recommended:

- 1. That the action taken be confirmed and that Councillor Storey be authorised to endeavour to complete the purchase of land referred to as agent for the Council, and that the Lord Mayor, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Storey and the Town Clerk take all necessary steps to vest the freehold of the property in the Corporation.*
- 2. That the City Treasurer be authorised to defray the costs of the purchase under the contracts secured by Councillor Storey, together with all legal and professional agency costs and expenses incurred by him.*
- 3. That no further statement as to the acquisition of the land be made before a further Report from your Committee has been presented to the Council.*

The Report was accepted by the Council. (City of Portsmouth Records of the Corporation, 1936-1945, Compiled by G.E. Barnet, Edited by V. Blanchard.)

With the sale of Leigh Park House and the adjoining land looking imminent, a sale of "Building Materials and Estate Equipment" was advertised in the local press by direction of Miss Fitzwygram on 10 January 1944. Sadly this appears to be one of the last acts in the final decline and sale of what was left of the estate:

Leigh Park Estate, Havant

In Wakeford's Copse, opposite Leigh Park House, on the main Havant-Rowlands Castle Road. One and a half miles from Havant Station. On the bus route.

SALE OF BUILDING MATERIALS & ESTATE EQUIPMENT.

Including

5-H.P. Ruston Hornsby Engine, Royal Mortising Machine,

Fourteen 12 to 54-Round Ladders

Bricks, Tiles, R.W. Guttering. Nails, Screws, 5 sets of Stocks and Dies, Timber, Paint, Roofing Materials, Wire Netting, Ropes, New Cottage Range,

Galvanised Tanks, Field Gates, etc., which will be conducted by

PUBLIC AUCTION by

Messrs Wyatt & Son, F.A.I.

On Monday, 10th January 1944

By direction of Miss Fitzwygram

Sale to commence at 12 Noon. On view Saturday 8th January 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Catalogue (price 3d.) from the Auctioneers, 10 West Street, Havant.

Portsmouth Evening News, 6 January 1944

The future of Leigh Park and its relation to the possible development of Portsmouth was discussed at a meeting of the Havant and Waterloo Urban District Council on 23 January 1944 and at first the councillors at Havant were surprised at how large the development was intended to be and decided to oppose Portsmouth at every opportunity, but alas with no notable success. As the following meeting held by Havant and Waterloo Urban District Council with the Town Clerk of Portsmouth shows, it does appear that Portsmouth Council, who after all, were proposing to build on land within the Urban District of Havant, kept the Council at Havant at arms-length, and especially in relating to Leigh Park House, which all seemed a little unseemly but necessary as we will see:

Future of Leigh Park – “No Details at Present” – Portsmouth Town Clerk

The future of Leigh Park and its relation to possible developments of Portsmouth was discussed at a meeting of the Havant and Waterlooville Urban District Council yesterday.

In the Roads and Works Committee's report reference was made to a meeting of the Portsmouth and District Town Planning Joint Advisory Committee which was attended by Councillors T.A. Herriott and B.F. Powell and it was recorded that in reply to a question as to why the City of Portsmouth had not submitted any plans on their proposed satellite towns to the authorities in whose areas such towns were proposed to be sited, the Town Clerk of Portsmouth stated that his Council were not in the position to submit any detailed proposals at present.

Mr Powell commented that it was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Capt. A.E. Jones M.C. (Vice Chairman) said that in regard to the proposed satellite town to be sited at Leigh Park he would like to know if the Clerk of the Council could tell him whether Leigh Park House and a portion of the land adjoining had quite recently had been purchased by a member of the City Council of Portsmouth.

Mr A.H. Brown, J.P.: Could we not have the facts. Are they not in the possession of this Council? He added that it would be a serious matter if, through his membership of the Council, he learnt that a piece of land was desired by the Council and he were to purchase it and re-sell to the Council. It was a question of public policy and he raised it in the hope of getting a little publicity as he thought public opinion would then do the rest.

Lieut.-Comdr. Herriott said that this Council was not concerned in who purchased the land, but when plans were submitted for its lay-out and development they could reject or approve them. He added that two-thirds of Leigh Park were in the Petersfield Rural area.

Mr Powell thereupon suggested that that Council should be communicated with so that the tentacles of the Portsmouth octopus, about which he had warned them many months ago, could be held in a net. No proposition was submitted so the next item was proceeded with.

Portsmouth Evening News, 24 January 1944

By early February 1944 the deal to buy a total of 1,671 acres of land around Leigh Park, including Leigh Park House and the land adjoining measuring 497 acres was completed by Portsmouth City Council. This was enough land for the proposed satellite town as well as the green belt around Leigh Park House, which would not be included in the new building scheme. *The Portsmouth Evening News* carried the news in their edition of 9 February 1944 and highlighted the wonderful job Councillor Frederick Storey had done in negotiating the buying of the land for the new scheme. The work carried out by Councillor Storey in acquiring the land cannot be understated and it is through his hard work the scheme was completed. Interestingly, during the process of acquiring Leigh Park House and the land still attached to it from Angela Fitzwygram Councillor Storey, for a while, became the lord of the manor of Havant, as he was in the position of signing the contract to buy the remaining Leigh Park Estate.*

*Technically the owner of the Leigh Park Estate was automatically the lord of the manor of Havant. This goes back to the time when William Garret, at Leigh Park, 1800-1819 acquired the lease of the manor of Havant from his brother-in-law Richard Bingham Newland who was renting or leasing the manor from the Bishop of Winchester. In 1827 Sir George Thomas Staunton bought manor from the Bishop Of Winchester for the sum of £2,075 1s. 9d. Subsequently the manor was passed to the owners of Leigh Park Estate. Councillor Storey is remembered at Leigh Park (Staunton Country Park by the walled garden in the North Gardens being named after him.

Portsmouth City Council Buy Leigh Park Estate “Wonderful Job by Councillor Storey” Negotiated Contracts

In adopting unanimously the recommendation for the purchase of 1,761 acres of the Leigh Park Estate, Portsmouth City Council yesterday acquired almost the whole of the area of one of the proposed satellite towns mentioned in their post-war re-planning scheme. Tributes were paid to the public-spirited action of Councillor F.G.H. Storey in negotiating the contracts.

On October 26 last year there was a meeting of the Council in committee at which it was disclosed that in the previous July, Councillor Storey had informed the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance Committee that he was in possession of information which might enable him to purchase on behalf of the

Corporation all the land required for the Leigh Park satellite town, together with the green belt. This opportunity was not likely to continue when more publicity had been given to the Council's proposals, and, indeed, in view of the mentions which had already been made of the proposal, it would require extremely careful handling.

Alderman Harold Pink's report on the meeting in committee went on to state: "Owing to the war-time restrictions on capital expenditure and the refusal of H.M. Government to consider schemes extending beyond a one-year housing programme there was great doubt whether the project could be carried into effect. Nevertheless, the enormous advantage to the Corporation in preparing and carrying through their plans for the satellite town in owning the freehold in question seemed to justify every effort.

Accordingly a deputation consisting of the Lord Mayor, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Town Clerk, City Treasurer, Deputy City Architect, and Councillor Storey waited upon the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and explained the proposal. This was favourably received but it became apparent that a large number of Ministries would be involved and the most serious obstacle would be the Treasury embargo. The City Treasurer was able to state that owing to the curtailment of capital expenditure during the war there was sufficient money available in the Consolidated Fund to cover the expenditure without recourse to borrowing.

Meetings were subsequently arranged when Councillor Storey and the Deputy City Architect conferred with the Ministry of Health with regard to the housing programme, the Ministry of Agriculture who were concerned with the utilization of agricultural land for housing and the Ministry of Transport to co-operate the scheme with trunk road proposals.

Agreement was reached with these Ministries, and after a further deputation consisting of the Town Clerk and Councillor Storey, had visited the Ministry of Town and Country Planning the case was submitted to the Treasury with the recommendations of the other Ministries. In view of the stated policy of the Treasury this matter had to be referred for the personal decision of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Thanks to the expeditious handling of the matter by the Ministries concerned and their favourable co-operation, Treasury agreement was secured during August.

On the authority of the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Storey opened negotiations and when it became apparent that progress could be made the matter was reported to that Committee who authorised Councillor Storey to continue negotiations on their behalf and agreed to indemnify him in respect of agency, valuation and other professional fees which it might be necessary to incur. At the same time it was clear that before any purchase could be made the matter would require the sanction of the Council. Councillor Storey immediately proceeded with the negotiations, but owing to the complexity of the transaction and the legal delays, great difficulty was experienced in securing contracts. Councillor Storey reported at a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that he would be in a position to bring the whole matter to the Council at the meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 26, 1943, but he also had to report that one contract had been received and was ready for approval when he had received an intimation from the Vendors that they had heard of the planning proposals and that they declined to proceed. Councillor Storey, at his own risk, approved the contract and tendered the deposit, but the Vendors refused to accept this.

This misfortune illustrated very clearly the difficulties of negotiating on behalf of the local authority, and though every step was taken to heal the breach it was not possible at that moment to state what the outcome would be, but it was clearly necessary for the highest degree of secrecy to be maintained. The proposals provided for the acquisition by the Corporation of approximately 2,400 at a purchase price not exceeding £150,000 inclusive of costs.

It was now reported to the Council that in accordance with the recommendations made by the Council, Councillor Storey, acting on behalf of the Council, signed a contract for the purchase of Leigh Park House and adjoining land to an area approximately 497 acres, and the purchase of this land had now be completed. After further negotiations with owners of adjoining land he had been able to exchange contracts for the purchase of a further 1,174 acres, making a total of 1,671 acres covering almost all of the area of the proposed satellite town, together with a "green belt" to the south and west.

The owners of the remainder of the land referred to in the Committee's report to the Council in Committee had refused to continue negotiations, and accordingly

Councillor Storey and the Town Clerk had a further interview with the Ministry of Town and Country Planning to report progress and to urge the Ministry to use compulsory powers for the purchase of 798 acres (approximately) in that ownership. The acquisition of this further 798 acres would complete the area of the new town (with the exception of the part lying to the east of the main London-Havant Railway), together with a forest area to the north, and would bring the total area up to about 2,470 acres. It was anticipated that the total purchase price inclusive of expenses would be substantially below the figure authorised by the Council.

Portsmouth Evening News, 9 February 1944

The selling of the remainder of the estate, including the mansion, by Angela Fitzwygram, did not affect what was going on at Leigh Park at the time. The Admiralty carried on as before and in fact stayed at Leigh Park and West Leigh House well into the 1950s before handing over to Portsmouth City Council.

The general opinion in the press was that this was a good piece of business by Portsmouth City Council, but some people who remembered the estate pre-war were saddened by its demise. The following are two letters addressed to the Editor of the *Portsmouth Evening News*, giving differing opinions:

"Well Done Sir!"

Sir, - The purchase by the Portsmouth City Council of Leigh Park is undoubtedly a fine piece of work, and we shall in the future look with pride and satisfaction to this grand addition to our city. In my opinion the price paid is reasonable, because we are a prosperous city and we can well afford to purchase another couple of "Leigh Parks."

To Councillor Storey I say "Well done, sir!" and I sincerely trust that the two councillors to be elected in the near future will be business men of this type.

Yours etc. Dan Garcia.

Portsmouth Evening News, 11 February 1944

The next letter addressed to the Editor of the *Portsmouth Evening News* was written by someone who appears to have known the estate well, and bemoans the fact that estates like Leigh Park with its vast parkland and woodlands will sadly be taken over

for the purposes of building to rehouse the many people needing homes after the war:

Memories

Sir, - When one hears of such happenings as the purchase of Leigh Park Estate, that old but very true phrase of "How Time Flies" well and truly makes one feel that a few years have flown by unnoticed. The memories of Leigh Park in bygone days make one realize what a pleasant beauty spot this is. First there was our old Sunday School outings by four-horse brake from Portsmouth. How these were enjoyed by the children (it's a job these days to convince our children that this was so). Then there were the days when the Hambledon Hounds held their meet at Leigh Park House, Captain Standing being the Master at that time, and foxes were plentiful. I doubt very much if one could be found these days.

I suppose we must live with the times, and an outlet must be found for living accommodation when post-war days arrive. No doubt many others like myself will be sorry to see such a beauty spot with roads running through it and houses with their smoking chimneys. A big effort was being made in pre-war days to preserve the rural beauty spots of this country. Imagine the number that will disappear when building starts in earnest. But there, our City fathers cast the die on what is to be, or what is not to be, so when the time comes for the bricks and mortar to be unloaded, may they in their wisdom do away with as little of what nature has made beautiful by sparing those fine trees and woodlands.

Yours etc., A.F. Pack

Portsmouth Evening News, 16 February 1944

As far as the Leigh Park Estate was concerned this sale brought the end of Leigh Park and the estate and its long history as a family home to an end. Of course, it is not the end of the story; that continues to this day with the Staunton Country Park open for the many visitors to enjoy, but from February 1944 the long chapter of life at Leigh Park ended and another chapter began.

We will end in February 1944 when the last piece of the Leigh Park jigsaw was sold to Portsmouth City Council when the mansion house and surrounding land was sold. The farms and small holdings and other land sold off by Angela Fitzwygram in 1936 made up the largest portion of what would become the Leigh Park Housing Estate.

The story of this is covered very well in other publications and we need not go any further with the story of the housing estate. We will leave at May 1944 when the final cost of the whole project was released to the press:

Inside Story of the Purchase of Leigh Park Estate Secured at 1937 Value

Further details of the purchase of the Leigh Park Estate were given to Portsmouth City Council yesterday by the Finance Committee. Altogether the area of the land purchased was approximately 1,672 acres at a cost of £122,465, which was equivalent to £75 an acre.

The land comprised two areas. Area 1 lay on the south and west sides of the estate and covered approximately 1,175 acres, the vendors being Parkleigh Investments Ltd, who had entered into a contract to sell for £85,000. Alderman H.D. Gilbert, one of the directors of the company, was a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and was aware of the purpose for which the property was required. The Committee placed on record their appreciation of his co-operation which enabled the Corporation to acquire this more valuable portion of the land at the same price per acre as that for the central part (Area 2).

The contract provided for the completion of the purchase either or, December 31, 1948, or the expiration of 12 months from the date of an armistice with Germany whichever was the earlier.

The income from the various tenancies was given as about £2,319 per annum, while the annual outgoings on the whole estate (Areas 1 and 2) were stated to be about £456. It was understood from Councillor Storey that the vendors who purchased in 1937 (1936 sale), paid £72 for the property, inclusive of timber. During 1937-39 several plots of land were sold off, amounting in all to not less than 25 acres. Substantial sums were paid for those plots, up to £500 per acre.

Area 1 consisted of meadow land, a small portion of building land, a lake, ten farms varying in acreage from 11 to 237 acres, certain arable land, plantations, and copses. The agent who acted for Councillor Storey was Mr H.A. Napier.

Area 2 comprises Leigh Park Mansion and approximately 496 acres, formerly a part of the Fitzwygram estate. The purchase money for the area was £33,400, and additional expenses amounting to £32,657 6s. 10d., (timber £1,600); stamp duty on conveyance £334, agents fees £528 11s.; solicitors' costs and incidentals £194 15s. 10d.

The annual income from tenancies in this area was given as £1,094, while the tithes, land tax, rates, and insurance amounted to £186 9s. 6d. The aggregate income estimated to be derived from existing rents in Areas 1 and 2 was as far as could be ascertained, £3,414 3s. 6d. per annum. Area 2 comprised the mansion house and grounds, pasture, woodlands and arable land together with various cottages.

Acting on the authority of the Committee and the Council, Councillor Storey had instructed Messrs Pink and Arnold, estate agents and surveyors, Wickham, to carry out the management of the estate, and the Committee recommended the acceptance of that firm's terms of five per cent on gross receipts, plus out of pocket expenses. The Committee also recommended the affixing of the Common Seal to all document vesting Areas 1 and 2 in the Corporation.

Portsmouth Evening News, 10 May 1944

So what became of the house and the land attached? The price paid by Portsmouth City Council for the house and land sold by Angela Fitzwygram was £32,657 6s 10d and £1,600 for timber and this amounted to approximately 496 acres and comprising: *the mansion house and grounds, pasture, woodlands and arable land together with various cottages.* If we add the money Angela Fitzwygram received for the house, land and other property and if the £72,000 for the land sold off in 1936 is added to it means the whole of the Fitzwygram Estate was sold for £106,257 6s. 10d. It is unclear if any of the this land went for building but land at Great Copse and close to the South Lodge were used for housing but the majority was deemed "Green Belt" and remained as so as it is today.

It is only left for us to say what happened to the mansion and land attached. After the Admiralty gave up Leigh Park House in the late 1950s it was deemed that the house was not in a fit state. It was said that interior walls had been removed and also with the risk of vandalism it was decided by Portsmouth City Council in June 1959 to demolish the house. Prior to this, in December 1954, suggestions were being made

that perhaps the house could be used as a community centre but it was established that this was not feasible. Other suggestions were that it could become a Cottage Hospital but this again was deemed a non-runner.



One of the last photographs of Leigh Park House before demolition, 1959

Portsmouth City Council kept its word in regarding leaving the land close to the house as "Green Belt". The whole of the north gardens remain, with some of the garden features such as the lake and even some of Sir George Staunton's garden features. The Home Farm and the land that went with it, which unlike the other tenanted farms was not sold off and remained as part of the estate until sold off by Angela Fitzwygram and are still part of what is now Staunton Country Park. In July 1951 Portsmouth City Council acquired another 51 acres *of vistas and area adjoining Leigh Park House within Havant Thicket* for the price of £3,750. Again this was deemed "Green Belt".

In August 1953 the gardens and parkland at Leigh Park, measuring 180 acres was classified as a 'playground for everyone in the District' being open for everyone on Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holiday. Today of course, luckily the north gardens and the south gardens, which include the Farm Trail, are open to visitors as part of the Staunton Country Park and preserved hopefully for generations to come.

And what of Angela Fitzwygram? The last of the family to bear that name she died on 30 July 1984 in a nursing home in Hindhead, just a few weeks before her 99th birthday. She was buried alongside her brother Sir Frederick and her parents at St John's Church at Rowlands Castle on 6 August 1984.

Reerences and Sources

Home Chat, 12 November 1898.
The Magdalen College Record
Hampshire Advertiser
Portsmouth Evening News
The Times
Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic News, 15 May 1920
Sport & Sportsmen of the New Forest, C.R. Acton, early 1930s
The Great Scots in The Great War, 1914-18, F. Loraine Petrie, Wilfrid Ewart
& Major General Sir Cecil Lowther, 1925
Essex Newsman
Scottish Daily Record
Daily Mail
The Scotsman
Oxford In the Great War, Malcolm Graham, 2014
The Sketch
Hampshire Field Club
Hampshire Record Office
City of Portsmouth Records of the Corporation, 1936-1945, Compiled by
G.E. Barnet, Edited by V. Blanchard.
Portsmouth Record Office
The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre Local History Collection



Christmas Wishes from Leigh Park, c.1910